

RED HOT SWIMSUIT ISSUE

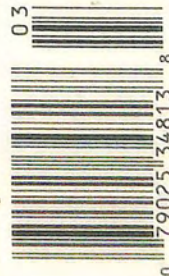
feel the **SPORT**


H.E.A.T.

*Alison Armitage of
Acapulco H.E.A.T.*



MARCH 1994
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Marlboro Country. Where time stands still and rivers run

A dramatic landscape photograph of a deep canyon. The canyon walls are steep and layered with rock, illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun. A river flows through the bottom of the canyon, reflecting the light. In the foreground, a group of people on horseback are riding along a sandy bank of the river. The background shows distant mountains under a clear sky.

forever.

A black and white photograph of two young men on a pier. The man on the left is wearing a plaid shirt over a tank top and jeans, holding a fishing rod. The man on the right is wearing a t-shirt and jeans, holding a large fish high above his head. Both are smiling and appear to be celebrating. The background shows a wooden pier railing and a body of water.

**Work, Work,
Work, Work,
Work, Work,
Work, Work,
Fish.**

Take it easy.



SPORT

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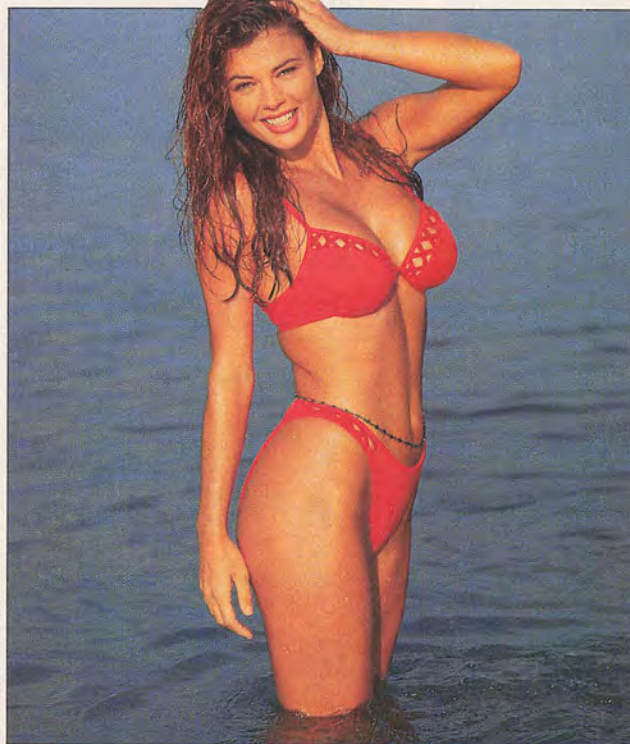
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Alison Armitage leads our annual swimsuit tour



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DAVID MCEY/SUIT: JAG

DAVID LAM/KYLE

DAVE BLACK

COVER: ALISON ARMITAGE, BY DAVID MCEY; SUIT: JAG

SPORT MAIL

TOP 40

Steve Young over Troy Aikman in your Top 40 list (January)? Give me a break! You repeated the mistake you made in your quarterback rankings (October). The last time I checked, Steve Young still had not led his team to a Super Bowl or beaten Aikman head-to-head. Great quarterbacks are judged by how many titles they win, not by how athletic they are. If that were the case, Randall Cunningham would be considered the greatest QB of all time. It's time you guys jumped off Steve Young's bandwagon because it's going nowhere fast. In a league full of star quarterbacks, Aikman's star is the brightest of them all.

Fabian Medina
McAllen, Texas

How could you rank Frank Thomas behind Juan Gonzalez? Thomas has some records that are unbelievable. Not only has he set many White Sox records, but for the third straight season, he has bettered a .300 average, 20 homers, 100 runs, 100 RBI and 100 walks. Only four other players have done this: Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx and Ted Williams. Pretty good company. Frank Thomas might end up being the best ever. Juan Gonzalez? No.

Will Davies
Wheeler, Indiana

Jimmy Johnson at No. 4, with one Super Bowl victory and talent that includes Nos. 8, 11 and 24? Too bad the Cowboys lag behind forgotten coach Dan Reeves and his New York Giants, who have no Top 40 athletes. Also missing from your list is the best NFL quarterback, John Elway, and the best baseball



manager, repeat World Series winner Cito Gaston. Your greatest oversight was the absence of the best pound-for-pound boxer, Pernell Whitaker. Doesn't anyone think that an all-time great boxer like Whitaker might be a more important athlete than the likes of Sterling Sharpe, Scottie Pippen, Chris Webber or Patrick Roy?

Sherman Lambert
Pacific Palisades,
California

I compliment you on ranking Barry Bonds No. 1, but I think Chris Webber [No. 38] was too low. He should be switched with Cecil Fielder [No. 30]. I also think Jimmy Johnson, Pat Riley and Phil Jackson should have been replaced with Andres Galarraga,

Sergei Fedorov and Tyrone Wheatley.

Jeff Kessler
Utica, Michigan

I enjoyed your Top 40. You had some great players in there. But one thing: Where's Dave Justice? I can't believe you'd leave out one of the premier power hitters in baseball! He hasn't hit fewer than 21 homers a season since he got to the majors. Next season he'll be MVP.

Justin Downs
Chelmsford,
Massachusetts

Your Top 40 was almost right on the money. However, I was shocked when I didn't see the name of the Seattle SuperSonics' All-Star forward Shawn Kemp. He's among the leaders in

scoring, field-goal percentage, rebounding, steals and blocked shots, not to mention his enthralling dunks. His power, agility and raw talent represent the new breed of NBA basketball that has changed the face of the game. Look for Kemp to lead the Sonics to an NBA championship this year, and please give him the credit he deserves.

George Lessig
Valley Stream, New York

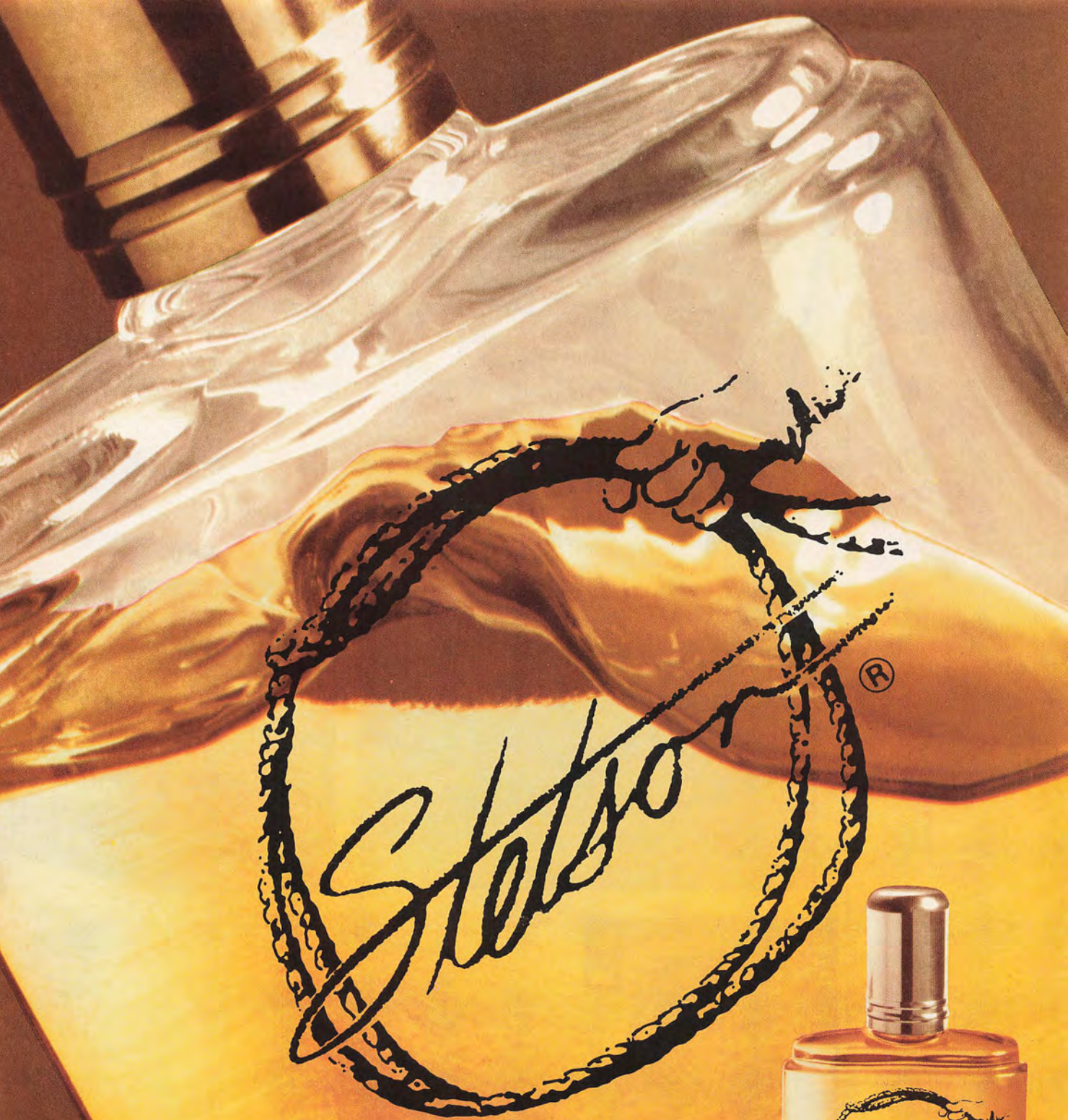
How could you possibly leave out Karl Malone? Is it because he doesn't have TV commercials for shoes or other ridiculously expensive products? Well, I thought we were talking about these guys' abilities to play their sports. Malone has finished just behind Jordan four times in scoring and has made NBA first-team four times. Malone is the NBA's premier power forward, and you can put people like Scottie Pippen in front of him? Without Jordan, the Bulls wouldn't have won anything.

Leonard Yoder
Allensville, Pennsylvania

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

On Nov. 23, I was watching the Orlando Magic play the Golden State Warriors. During the introductions, something really struck me as odd: The Orlando crowd booed their star rookie, Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway. Now, it doesn't take a genius to understand that it all goes back to the 1993 draft trade; Chris Webber [traded to the Warriors from the Magic in exchange for Hardaway and draft picks] was in the game, and he received cheers. But Magic fans don't understand

(Continued on page 92)



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ALOHA FROM HAWAII

WITH ITS FOUR-DIAMOND AND TRIPLE-A RATINGS, 545 ROOMS AND HALF-MILE OF BEAUTIFUL BEACH, THE ROYAL WAIKOLOAN WAS A PERFECT CHOICE FOR OUR CREW

BIG ISLAND MODELS: DAWA DEBINA (TOP), MARGI JOHNSTON



Hawaiian Monk Seals and Green Sea Turtles frolic undisturbed in the waters of a remote Hawaiian lagoon. Photo by B. Eilerts

Hey, what's happening?
The models are outrageous! This year's crop includes cover model Alison Armitage, Patty Breton, Billee English, Jodi Lau, Shauna O'Brien, Leslie Scott, Heidi Staley, Shannon Stone, Michelle Thomas and Micki Zell. (You can see Alison Armitage on "Acapulco H.E.A.T.," currently in syndication.) We met models Dawa Debina and Margi Johnston during a swimsuit contest in Kona, co-sponsored by radio station Y 101.5 FM.
On the way to the Kilauea National Volcano, we stopped overnight in Naalehu, a town billed as the southernmost community in the United States. Is bug spray expensed as entertainment or miscellaneous?
By the way, I can't wait for everyone to see the great, sexy suits this year.
Well, here's to an even tan,

IRA

P.S. Need more expense-report forms, please. Thanks.

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SPORT MAGAZINE
EDITORIAL/PHOTO
6420 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90048



CREW



Hawaiian Monk Seals and Green Sea Turtles frolic undisturbed in the waters of a remote Hawaiian lagoon. Photo by B. Eilerts

Hey L.A.!

Having a great time! How's the office? Photographer David Mecey is celebrating his third swimsuit issue with us, and this one is his best! This is also the third for assistant Billy White, who got a bit too close to the volcano. He'll be OK, nothing a little Aloe Vera won't soothe. Assistant Ric Moore proved volleyball isn't a beginner's sport. Makeup artist Michelle van der Hule outdid herself with another fine performance. This was Denise Russell's first trip as the swimsuit stylist, while videographer Paul Gordon and craft service specialist Ian Berger were back for their second helpings.

Have to go. They need me to stuff the pig.

IRA

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STAFF
Sport Magazine
6420 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90048





Good morning!

It's the 10 a.m. break—we've been working since 3:30 in the morning. I'm writing from my ocean-view room at The Royal Waikoloa Resort. It's been a great couple of days so far. The hotel is fantastic, the backdrop stunning, lanais in each room, beautiful beach. Heck, it's a picture in the making.

Hawaii's fabulous. It's an island full of beauty and history. Oh yeah, and superstition. For instance, they say bad luck will come to those who remove volcanic rocks from the islands. Hey, look! I think I just saw Vince Coleman with pockets full of rocks! Just kidding.

Most of our photography is taking place on the west side of the Big Island, the dry side. Residents along the way have been a big help, people from the Royal Waikoloa like Debbie Taylor, director of sales; John McLaughlin, director of food and beverage; Aulani Ryder, sales manager; and Keikilani Yvonne Kainoa, director of guest services.

Greg and Patsy Long have been terrific. So has a guy named Ski. A few locals—Bob, Doug and Ken Herkes—have spent hours helping with equipment and locations, and assisting with photo shoots.

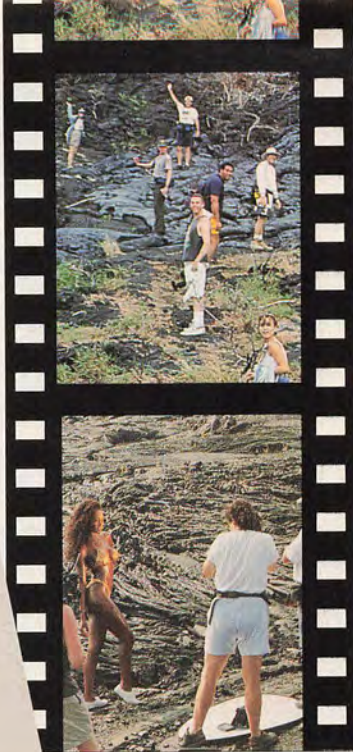
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Gotta go. The poi is about done.

IRA

P.S. I NEED MORE EXPENSE REPORT FORMS!

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Hawaiian Monk Seals and Green Sea Turtles frolic undisturbed in the waters of a remote Hawaiian lagoon. Photo by B. Eilerts

Dear gang:

Here are my top 10 reasons for why we shot in Hawaii:

10. The pineapples are cheap
9. Never seen a gecko before
8. It was either this or edit this month's crossword puzzle
7. Needed some frequent-flyer miles
6. Always wanted to watch the Atlanta Braves at 7 a.m.
5. My wife wanted Jack Lord's autograph
4. Macadamia nuts help me stay regular
3. Rumors of Don Ho comeback tour
2. To expense a trip to Hawaii, you have to actually go there
1. Best buy on lava lamps

See you in a few weeks,

IRA

99-3880 Iwaena Street, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

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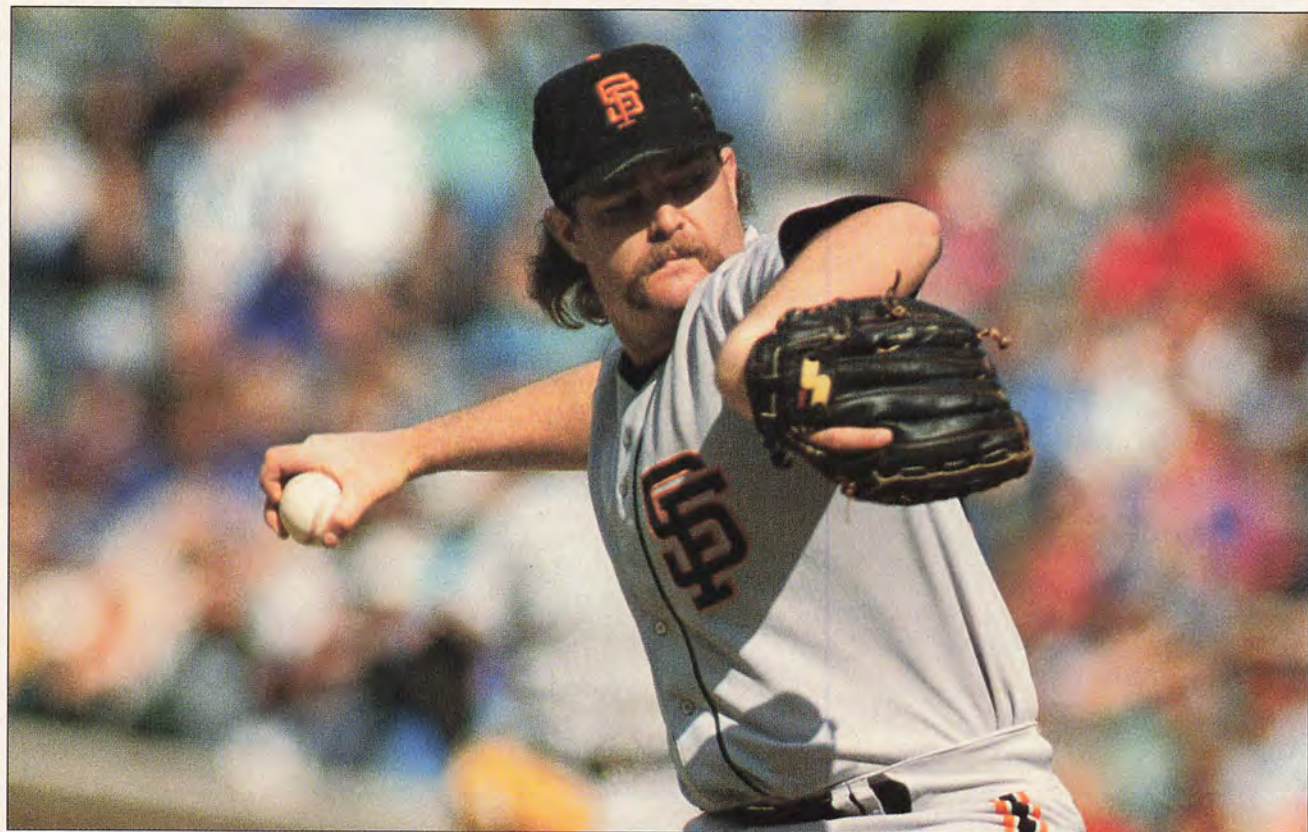


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H.E.A.T.



PROBLEM PITCH

CAN THE SPLIT-FINGERED FASTBALL SHORTEN A PITCHER'S CAREER?



Rod Beck pitched the San Francisco Giants into pennant contention last season by closing doors with his split-fingered fastball. But sooner or later, he'll be taking a sore elbow to Dr. Frank Jobe. Bet your bone chips on it.

It's been more than a decade since the splitter became the rage in baseball. Evidence mounts that the pitch is as threatening to those who throw it as to those who try to hit it. Spreading the fingers—which makes the ball sink—tightens the forearm muscles. A snap of the wrist then abuses those muscles and the ligament area in the elbow.

TOM DRACE

Florida Marlins pitcher Bryan Harvey knows that feeling. He's undergone two elbow operations during his major-league career. Last season, Jack Morris popped an elbow ligament because of the pitch. Bret Saberhagen is thought to have blown out his elbow last spring while toying with a splitter in the bullpen.

"If someone who throws that pitch comes to me with a sore elbow, I go right to the medial [interior] side," says California Angels physician Lewis Yocum. "Muscle or ligament damage in that area is more prevalent among those who throw the splitter."

"A lot of guys have success with it for a year or so, then get hurt," says Pittsburgh Pirates pitching coach Ray Miller. "For years, all the Giants threw it, and to me it seemed like they always had major injuries."

Marlins pitching coach Marcel Lachemann has a different point of view. "Guys pitch four, five years in the majors, then come up with a bad arm. But they probably never would have pitched an inning in the big leagues without [the splitter]."

Better to have five years in the bigs and take a chance with the split-fingered fastball than not to have gotten there at all.

—Tom Singer

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Alan Jackson—A Lot
About Livin' (And A Little
'Bout Love) (Arista)
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Mötley Crüe—Decade
Of Decadence '81-'91
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We? Linger, etc. (Island) 465•559

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Dreamlover; Hero; Without
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Eric Clapton—
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Aerosmith—Pump
(Geffen) 388•009



Stone Temple Pilots—
Core (Atlantic) 453•043

"Dazed And
Confused"—Orig.
Sndtrk. (Giant) 468•546

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Don Henley—The End
Of The Innocence
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Fever (MCA) 382•184

Proclaimers—Sunshine
On Leith (Chrysalis)
382•036

The Clash—The Story
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(Epic) 368•597/398•594

REO Speedwagon—
The Hits (Epic) 367•672

Patsy Cline—Grt. Hits
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Singles (Sire) 362•541

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You Know By Heart
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Bob Marley & The
Wailers—Legend (Tuff
Gong/Island) 337•857

Billy Joel—Grt. Hits,
Vols. 1 & 2 (Columbia)
336•396/396•390

Bruce Springsteen—
Born In The U.S.A.
(Columbia) 326•629

Air Supply—Greatest
Hits (Arista) 321•307

The Police—Synchroni-
city (A&M) 320•499

Michael Jackson—
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Little River Band—Grt.
Hits (Capitol) 317•800

Spin Doctors—Pocket
Full Of Kryptonite
(Epic/Assoc.) 428•482

Kenny Rogers' Grt.
Hits (Liberty) 313•700

AC/DC—Back In Black
(Atlantic) 305•045

John Hiatt—Perfectly
Good Guitar (A&M)
465•385

Jean Luc Ponty—No
Absolute Time
(Atlantic) 464•297

Chris Ledoux—Under
This Old Hat (Liberty)
461•871

Dire Straits—On The
Night (Warner Bros.)
458•448

Vince Neil—Exposed
(Warner Bros.) 457•143

Lynyrd Skynyrd
Band—Last Rebel
(Atlantic) 454•538



White Zombie—La
Sexorcisto (Geffen) 442•079

Stanley Clarke—East
River Drive (Epic)
449•777

Great White—Psycho
City (Capitol) 447•565

Faith No More—Angel
Dust (Reprise/Slash)
439•307

Tom Cochrane—Mad
Mad World (Capitol)
435•685

Pearl Jam—Ten (Epic/
Associated) 428•433

CLASSIC ROCK

The Allman Brothers
Band—A Decade Of
Hits 1969-79 (Polydor)
430•439

Rod Stewart—Sing It
Again Rod
(Mercury) 423•822

Rush—Chronicles
(Mercury)
423•780/393•785

The Very Best Of The
Righteous Brothers—
Unchained Melody
(Verve) 423•772

The Moody Blues—Grt.
Hits (Polydor) 423•756

Eric Clapton—Time
Pieces (Polydor)
423•467

Best Of The Doobies
(Warner Bros.) 291•278

David Bowie—Changes-
bowie (Rykodisc)
412•247

John Lennon Collec-
tion (Capitol) 405•308

Lynyrd Skynyrd—
Skynyrd's Innards/Their
Grt. Hits (MCA) 381•129

Roy Orbison—The All-
Time Hits, Vols. 1 & 2
(CSP) 377•945

The Who—Who's
Better, Who's Best
(MCA) 376•657

Fleetwood Mac—Grt.
Hits (Warner Bros.)
375•782

Steppenwolf—16 Grt.
Hits (MCA) 372•425

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ektra) 357•616/397•612



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(MCA) 458•034

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Greatest Hits (Atlantic)
350•793/390•799

Van Morrison—
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Bros.) 349•803

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346•445

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(CBS Assoc.) 327•742

Motown's 25 #1 Hits
From 25 Years (Mo-
town) 319•996/399•998

Eagles Grt. Hits, Vol. 2
(Asylum) 317•768

Bob Dylan's Grt. Hits
(Columbia) 138•586

The Best Of Blondie
(Chrysalis) 311•811

REO Speedwagon—Hi
Infidelity (Epic) 306•449

Electric Light Orch.—
ELO's Greatest Hits
(Jet) 300•095

Best Of Carly Simon
(Elektra) 291•856

America's Grt. Hits
(Warner Bros.) 291•385

James Taylor's Grt.
Hits (Warner Bros.)
291•302

Grateful Dead—Skele-
tons From The Closet
(Warner Bros.) 378•406



Journey—Journey's
Greatest Hits (Columbia)
375•279

The Steve Miller Band
—Grt. Hits 1974-78
(Capitol) 290•171

Eagles—Grt. Hits, 1971-
75 (Asylum) 287•003

Eagles—Hotel California
(Asylum) 286•948

Linda Ronstadt's Grt.
Hits (Asylum) 286•740

Meat Loaf—Bat Out Of
Hell (Epic) 279•133

Boston (Epic) 269•209

Jim Croce—Photo-
graphs & Memories:
Grt. Hits (Saja) 246•868

Santana's Grt. Hits
(Columbia) 244•459

Janis Joplin's Grt. Hits
(Columbia) 231•670

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Billy Joel—River Of Dreams. Title cut; *All About Soul*; many more. (Columbia) 463-695



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Reba McEntire—Greatest Hits Volume Two (MCA) 467-316

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Fourplay (Ritenour, Mason, James, East)—Between The Sheets (Warner Bros.) 464-578

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BOWLING

THE FUTURE IS NOW FOR THE PBA

Unlike the NBA, NFL and Major League Baseball, which are addressing issues with the 21st century in mind, the Professional Bowlers Association must deal with current concerns.

The '94 season, for instance, was shortened by two games because of the expanded NFL schedule. Furthermore, ABC opted to reduce the winter tour from 16 telecasts to 14 and not televise the summer and senior tours at all.

"These cutbacks are not necessarily economy-related," says PBA commissioner Mike Connor, who points out that the ratings were up last season by nine percent. "ABC wanted to scale back the amount of bowling tournaments for the profitability of the network. In the past, they were getting 24 tournaments for their bowling time, and they weren't getting a return for their commercials. By having less this year, they're hoping they can [increase] their profits."

In Connor's two years as PBA commissioner, he has been noted for his hands-on leadership in adding twists to the way the game is marketed, increasing commitments from longtime sponsors, and even tapping into the overseas market. With those accomplishments attached to the PBA, Connor is hoping that ABC will increase its future tournament coverage.

"If ABC's strategy [to maximize profitability] works, we may gain some tournaments back," says Connor. "ESPN will also televise 17 tournaments annually through 1995, and there's a possibility they'll do more. But up to now, I haven't asked them. I want to see if it works for ABC first. Then we'll go from there."

—Darryl Howerton

TOM D'ACE



B A S K E T B A L L

A FULL NELSON? NOT YET

Don Nelson entered the 1993-94 season as the eighth-winningest coach in NBA history, second to Lenny Wilkens on the active list. In Milwaukee, Nelson won seven consecutive division titles; his 1991-92 Golden State Warriors came from nowhere to win 55 games, garnering their boss a third NBA Coach of the Year Award.

Impressive credentials? You bet. You knew a "but" was coming, though, and here it is: Conspicuously absent from Nelson's 16-year coaching resume is a single appearance in the NBA Finals.

You can't say he's been a passive observer. In Milwaukee, Nelson's defenses were stifling; his Golden State teams, on the other hand, have ranked among the NBA's top three in scoring in each of the past four seasons. He's fielded big lineups—once pairing 7-4 Ralph Sampson with 7-7 Manute Bol—then turned around and played three guards and two forwards, wreaking matchup headaches on rival coaches.

"He drove me out of the game!" quips former Utah coach Frank Layden, whose second-seeded Jazz were upset by Nelson's Warriors in the first round of the 1988-89 playoffs. Layden has since become one of Nellie's biggest admirers. "You can go on

a road trip in this league, play five teams and not have to make any adjustments," he says. "But with Don Nelson you'd better be ready because his team is going to be different than the last time you played against them. He's not afraid to experiment, and he's come up with some clever innovations over the years."

But never, really, has Nelson had the horses to produce anything more than overachieving teams. That was all supposed to change. Last season's squad, decimated by injuries, would return with the addition of the long-awaited big man: top pick Chris Webber. Webber arrived, but the injury jinx stuck around, befalling three starters before you could say "coach of the year"; ironically, the current injury situation might showcase Nelson's coaching abilities even more than at any other time in his career.

What if the Warriors, despite their injuries, somehow overachieve again, finishing near the top of the Pacific Division, or go deep into the playoffs? At worst, Nellie would receive another Coach of the Year Award. Then next year he could renew his stalking of the ultimate trophy—an NBA Finals appearance—the one that would cement his position among the all-time greats.

—Dan Gordon

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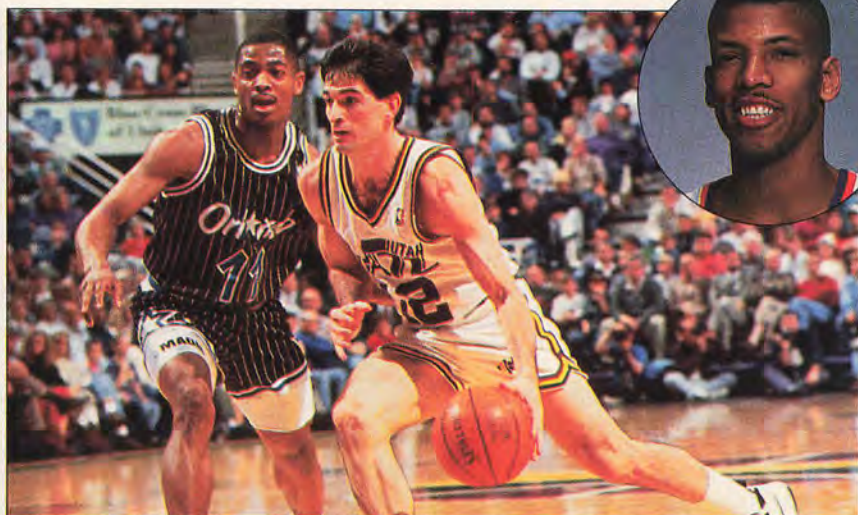
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SPORT TALK



NEA PHOTOS

BASKETBALL

KEVIN JOHNSON RATES THE POINT GUARDS

Averaging 18.4 points and nearly 10 assists a game going into the 1993-94 season, the Phoenix Suns' Kevin Johnson has earned recognition as one of the NBA's premier point guards.

We caught up with KJ in Chicago and asked him to rate the top point guards today, excluding himself. He gave us nine players that stood out from the rest, along with a college player who he thinks will soon make an impact in the NBA.

1. John Stockton, Utah Jazz: "He epitomizes what a point guard is supposed to do in distributing the ball. John's done his part in making that offense go."

2. Tim Hardaway, Golden State Warriors: "He's a very explosive player. He's able to thrive under Don Nelson's system, and I think he'll even get better."

3. Mark Price, Cleveland Cavaliers: "He can shoot the ball so well from the perimeter and is dangerous from the three-point line. Too bad he lost all that time to injuries."

4. Terry Porter, Portland Trail Blazers: "He understands the game. He's also big enough to play 2 guard. He can score and distribute the ball."

5. Derek Harper, Dallas Mavericks: "He's underrated. He's a true point guard. The question has been whether he'd be healthy. I'd like to see him one day on a good basketball team so everyone could see how good a point guard he is."

6. Isiah Thomas, Detroit Pistons: "You always have to mention Isiah, even if he's a little past his prime. His experience is his greatest attribute. He's been a true leader for the Pistons."

7. Kenny Anderson, New Jersey Nets: "Very effective when healthy. It was catastrophic when he got hurt late last season. I think he was making great progress, and his absence really hurt the Nets."

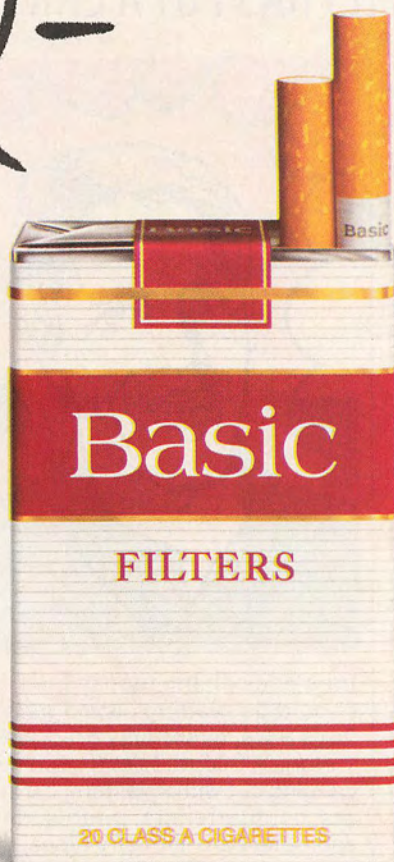
8. Mark Jackson, Los Angeles Clippers: "He's still young. He's talented and still defining his roles."

9. Mookie Blaylock, Atlanta Hawks: "I like his talent. As time goes on, I think he'll carve out his niche, just like Jackson."

10. Jason Kidd, University of California: "He can do everything. Oh my God, he can be good. Another year or two in college should help him before he gets to the NBA. All he has to do is work on his jump shot."

—George Castle

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SIGN OF THE TIMES: THE BIG-BUCK BUSINESS OF AUTOGRAPHS HAS PUT A CHILL ON THE THRILL

This may be your lucky day!

I have autographed a limited number of copies of this magazine, and if you were fortunate enough to have purchased a signed copy, this magazine will soon be worth thousands of dollars on the sports collectibles market. That's assuming that you remembered to wear your surgical gloves and are not touching this magazine with your bare fingers, in which case your skin's natural grime and oils have already contaminated the paper and rendered it worthless.

Sorry, but that's life in the card/autograph/souvenir biz. It's a fascinating hobby that has turned millions of youngsters into junior Donald Trumps.

My 9-year-old son collects cards, but so far he's failed to grasp the concept that these cards are like tiny cardboard Rembrandts, to be hoarded until market fluctuations are right and sold for a fat profit.

My son has ruined thousands of valuable cards by touching them, breathing on them and allowing his dog, Frank, to chew on them. This, of course, lowered the "grade" of the cards. All cards are graded on a scale according to condition. The four grades are:

- Mint: Has never even been exposed to the damaging rays that emanate from the human eye.

- Excellent-to-mint: Has been touched only with velvet tweezers. Slight imperfections are visible only under infrared microscope.

- Excellent: May have been breathed on, but the corners are sharp enough to slice a salami.

- Crappy: Has obvious teeth marks and dog-slobber stains.

Frankly, I don't give a damn. I'm kind of proud of my kid for not getting sucked into the serious business of card collecting. I think it's one of the stupidest hobbies of all time. Stamps and coins are to be collected and sold. Baseball (and football, etc.) cards are to be read, played with, sorted, sniffed, absorbed, shuffled, flipped, stuffed into pockets and shoe boxes, and chewed.

At least, that was my Norman Rockwellian boyhood experience with sports cards. I realize times change, but young boys should not be reading those card-price catalogues, straining



their eyes on the teensy print. They should be reading catalogues from Toys R Us, eventually graduating to Victoria's Secret. I don't want my son hanging out with investors, card-forgers, counterfeiters, pirates, dealers and other card-industry types, even if they are his classmates.

For sure, I don't want him going to one of Mr. Mint's auctions. Mr. Mint is a famous collector who, according to his magazine ad, is the purchaser of \$11 million in old cards over the past three years.

Mr. Mint boasts in his ad: "When appearing at auctions, I always have a handy supply of crisp \$100 bills to buy your quality collectibles." No limp C-notes for Mr. Mint, who calls himself "The Buying Machine" and wears a baseball cap with a dollar sign on the front.

I'm sure Mr. Mint, The Buying Machine, is a reputable gentleman who makes only fair deals, but I'd rather my son were out stealing hubcaps.

I knew the card biz had gone too far when I saw a newspaper ad for "The world's first 22-karat gold" baseball card. It's a Nolan Ryan card, and it sells for \$29.95, plus \$5 shipping and handling, although I advise you to send only \$2.50 for shipping because you don't want anybody handling your gold Nolan

Ryan. The ad shows a photo of the Nolan Ryan gold card. It is the way I would imagine an aluminum-foil death mask of the old strikeout king would look.

You guessed it: I'm cool on the card collecting as a kiddie business. But autograph buying, that's different.

Buying autographs is a humanitarian gesture because judging from the evidence, people such as Mickey Mantle, Joe Montana and Pete Rose have been kidnapped and locked in a room somewhere and won't be released until they've sold an autographed poster, bat, hat or ball to every person on earth.

They're close.

Imagine the warm glow a fan must feel when he hangs his Mickey Mantle-autographed bat on the wall, knowing that the Mick himself scrawled his signature on that hunk of wood while sitting in a dazed stupor in a bat warehouse.

C'mon, Mick. Just 10,000 more and we'll break for lunch. Hands tired? Use your toes.

Did I say signature? Most hero autographs look like the guy started to write just as he fell down a flight of stairs, signing as he tumbled. I saw an NBA-game program cover with a printed autograph of Patrick Ewing, and the signature looked more like "Mel Ott," but maybe it was shorthand for "Help! I'm falling down a flight of stairs!"

Consumer warning: Many autographs are forged. In purchasing any autographed item, be sure to obtain a certificate of authentication, signed by a witness who is attesting that the item was not signed by the hero's wife, agent, secretary, brother, batboy or dog. Or by Mel Ott.

As for proving the authenticity of the certificate of authentication, you're on your own. If the witness' signature is Chuck E. Cheese or Seymour Butts, I'd be skeptical.

These are the rantings of an old codger who remembers when an autograph was the physical reminder of a moment shared between a kid and a hero, when he took your pen and baseball, asked your name and tousled your hair.

I am told you can still get a hair tousling from your hero, but it will cost you an extra \$25, and your hero will wear rubber gloves. ★

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ANOTHER FAN-TASTIC MOVE...THE NBA ONCE AGAIN DOES THE RIGHT THING BY ADDING ROOKIES GAME TO ALL-STAR WEEKEND **BY RICK WEINBERG**



Rick Weinberg

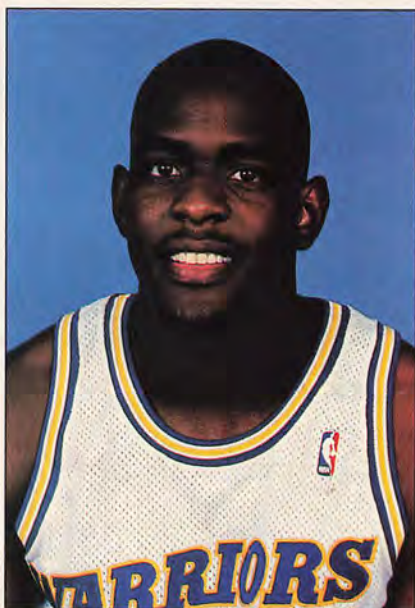
Leave it to the NBA, America's model sports league, to come up with another brilliant concept.

Just when some All-Star Weekend events were becoming a little drab, a little uneventful, the NBA injects a high-level dose of excitement by staging an all-star game for rookies.

Great idea.

"It's fabulous," says the Pistons' **Lindsey Hunter**, the 10th pick in last year's draft who is certain to be one of the starting guards in the new event, which replaces the Legends Game and joins the three-point shootout and slam-dunk event at All-Star Weekend (Feb. 11-13) in Minneapolis.

The idea of the rookies all-star game was triggered when **Shaquille O'Neal**, **Alonzo Mourning** and others from the great rookie class of '92 were tearing up the league, prompting comparisons to the '84 class that featured **Michael Jordan**, **Hakeem Olajuwon** and **Charles Barkley**.



Chris Webber

juwon and **Charles Barkley**.

Major knee injuries to several players in the Legends Game and the diminished excitement of the weekend's Saturday events had league executives trying to add the rookies game last year. But there wasn't enough time to settle a revenue issue between the Legends Foundation, a group established by the league to benefit its former players with financial needs, and the Retired Players Association, established last year by the Players Association.

But now the game is a reality.

Of course, if a rookie is selected to the actual NBA All-Star Game, he'll be exempt from playing in the rookies game. There are six rookies on this year's All-Star ballot—**Chris Webber**, **Anfernee Hardaway**, **Shawn Bradley**, **Jamal Mashburn**, **Calbert Cheaney** and **Toni Kukoc**—but Webber appears to be the only one with a legitimate shot at Sunday's main event.

All rookies interviewed for this piece said they liked the idea of a rookies all-star game and would relish the opportunity to play in it, but one expressed this concern: "We aren't used to playing this many games, so resting [during All-Star Weekend] would be very important."

Good point, but remember, the NBA is highly concerned with promotion and marketing, so this game goes on.

Here's a look at what the rookie rosters might look like:

Eastern Conference:

Center: **Bradley** (76ers); Forwards: **Kukoc** (Bulls) and **Dino Radja** (Celtics); Guards: **Hunter** and **Hardaway** (Magic).

Bench: **Acie Earl** (Celtics), **Scott Haskin** (Pacers), **Cheaney** (Bullets), **Chris Mills** (Cavaliers), **Vin Baker** (Bucks) and **Allan Houston** (Pistons).

Western Conference:

Center: **Mike Peplowski** (Kings); Forwards: **Mashburn** (Mavericks) and **Isaiah Rider** (Timberwolves); Guards: **Lucious Harris** (Mavericks) and **Nick Van Exel** (Lakers).



Charles Barkley

Bench: **Luther Wright** (Jazz), **Ervin Johnson** (Sonics), **Popeye Jones** (Mavericks), **Sam Cassell** (Rockets) and **Terry Dehere** (Clippers).

The NBA All-Star Game held in Minnesota? "Where the hell can you find some good links in Minnesota in February?" cracks **Charles Barkley**. "I've got to have a chat with **David [Stern]**. He's gotta start putting these things in Phoenix, L.A. or Florida so I can go 36 [holes]." Wasn't Jordan saying the same thing about last year's game, staged in snowy Utah, which prompted him to fly to Vegas to play 36? Maybe Stern is making a statement: No distractions, especially golf, during All-Star Weekend.

Several NBA scouts who compile reports on NCAA talent say it's a certainty that Kentucky's **Rick Pitino**, one of the top three coaches in the nation, will be back in the pros within the next three years—with Orlando, Charlotte, Miami or the Lakers. "The feeling [around college basketball] is that Pitino wants to win a national championship first, then leave," says a



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SPORT BEAT



Wayne Gretzky

scout. Would Pitino leave if Kentucky were to win the NCAA title this year? It's doubtful because Orlando and Charlotte, the two clubs with the brightest futures and supposedly the teams with which Pitino is most intrigued, aren't yet ready for prime time. They're close, but not yet on a level with Phoenix, Seattle or New York. When they are, Pitino will be ready to move in.

According to the Kings' **Wayne Gretzky**, teammates **Rob Blake**, **Darryl Sydor** and **Alexei Zhitnik** may become the best trio of defensemen since the Canadiens' awesome threesome of **Larry Robinson**, **Serge Savard** and **Guy LaPointe**. "These three guys dominate, offensively and defensively," Gretzky told ESPN 2 talk show host **Jim Rome**. "They're strong, they're physical, they're tough and they're very young."

So who'll be out in left field for the two-time World Series champion Blue Jays now that **Rickey Henderson** has returned to Oakland? Looks like it'll be **Rob Butler** or **Robert Perez**. Who? These guys aren't rated among the best prospects on the Triple-A level, but candid Jays vice president **Al LaMacchia** says they're "excellent prospects." So were **Glenallen Hill** and **Turner Ward**, but

where are they today? "These kids will be OK," says LaMacchia. "Remember, they've got the best defensive center fielder in baseball [**Devon White**] at their side." Unless the Jays swing a deal or sign a free agent, Perez may get the nod over Butler because he has more power. Both played Triple-A most of last season. Perez hit .294 with 12 homers, Butler .284 with just one round-tripper.

Here's one of the more interesting gems in **Peter May's** intriguing new book on **Larry Bird**, **Kevin McHale** and **Robert Parish**, appropriately titled *The Big Three*: The day before Bird announced his retirement, he sent his wife, Dinah, to Indiana because he felt the ceremonies in Boston would be too much for her. Then Bird sat up all night by himself, drinking beer and watching tapes of his greatest moments as a Celtic. (Bird probably would've required about a month's worth of evenings to watch all of his glorious moments.) Great stuff, and the book is packed with many such stories.

Hawks scout **Brian Winters**, a former NBA player, is astonished by the Magic's improvement. "They've done a complete turnaround," he says. "They've become a much better passing team, and they're much more fun to watch. Last year, they had very little ball movement. It was one pass and go one-on-one. Boring. This year, they're really distributing the ball beautifully. They're going to go a long way this way." The addition of rookie sensation **Anfernee Hardaway** is largely responsible—as well as the steady play of **Scott Skiles**, who was erratic last season and sat on the trading block for months but stayed put. "[Skiles has] been sensational," says Winters. "The guy is just a fiery, intense bundle of energy whose only concern is getting the ball to the right person in the right spot." One Eastern Conference GM says the Magic turned down three offers for Skiles. Good thing they did.

Surprised that the Twins didn't hang on to .300-hitting catcher **Brian Harper**? Don't be. "Harper's one of the worst defensive catchers in either league," says an AL West coach, and the Twins just couldn't put up with it anymore. Harper is so weak defen-



NBA PHOTOS

Larry Bird

sively that several pitchers, including **Scott Erickson**, threatened to demand trades if Harper's \$2.6 million option was picked up. Over the last five seasons, Harper has hit .325, .294, .311, .307 and .304, yet he's thrown out only 24 percent of potential base stealers in his six years with the Twins, and according to an AL scout, Twins pitchers are apprehensive to throw their best breaking pitches with runners on base for fear that Harper won't be able to handle a ball in the dirt. The Twins' probable starting catcher this season is **Matt Walbeck**, acquired from the Cubs with pitcher **Dave Stephens** for **Willie Banks**, once the Twins' top pitching prospect.

Let's just give the SuperSonics' **Bob Whitsett** Executive of the Year honors right now. "Anyone who can acquire two All-Stars [**Detlef Schrempf** and **Kendall Gill**] without giving up one starter deserves GM of the century," says a Western Conference coach. "How'd he do that?" With the acquisition of **Sam Perkins** last season, Whitsett has picked up three top-notch starters in less than one year. Amazing. "He's the best GM out there," says Sonics coach **George Karl**. "We're set up to win a championship. With what we've got, we'd better do it sometime in the next two seasons."★

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ONE ON ONE

KEN GRIFFEY JR.

"CAN I WIN THE TRIPLE CROWN? DEPENDS ON HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ON THE DISABLED LIST"

Ken Griffey Jr. appeared on the wrapper of his own candy bar—as a 19-year-old rookie. At age 20, as the starting center fielder for a big-league club, he hit .300 with 22 homers and 80 RBI. At 21, he was the man-child the rainy city of Seattle looked to for sunshine. At 22, he was burdened with the label "franchise player." Last season, at 23, he was one of the best hitters in the game.

Now 24, the young superstar has some lofty expectations to meet.

"Can I win the Triple Crown?" Griffey says, repeating the question. "Depends on how many people are on the disabled list. But I don't think pitchers will ever allow it to happen again. They're pitching around the best hitters."

Junior should know.

To fully appreciate the Junior juggernaut, you have to first chew on this: His first major-league at-bat produced a double, and the first swing he took in Seattle resulted in an opposite-field homer. Yet, what America has found more contagious than Nintendo is that to Griffey, the game of baseball is just that: a game.

"Baseball isn't real life; family and friends, that's life," says Junior, Seattle's first pick in the 1987 amateur draft. "People don't understand that this game can drive you crazy if you let it, but it's not important compared to other things in life. My father taught me that, because he never brought it

SCOTT JORDAN LEVY



home. Whatever happened at the ballpark stayed at the ballpark."

Usually what happened at the ballpark for Ken Griffey Sr. during his 18-season big-league career was success. Today, with a swing as sweet as fresh-squeezed lemonade on a humid summer day, the son has also risen.

"I haven't bothered with his swing since he was 9

years old," explains Griffey Sr., the Mariners' hitting instructor the past two seasons. Junior led Seattle in every major offensive category in '93, including a .309 batting average, and punctuated his season with an eight-game home run streak in July. The homer binge had been matched just twice before, by Dale Long in 1956 and Don Mattingly in 1987, and yet, for

Junior, he was just playing the game.

"During the streak, I didn't do anything differently than anyone else was doing," he insists. "I just went up there and hit. And hit." The seventh home run was a grand slam. No. 8 was a mammoth shot that tapped the third-deck facade in the Kingdome, some 405 feet away from where Junior stood. He smiled, marveling at the distance—not to show up the pitcher but in awe of his own achievement.

His game is played by the credo, "walk softly and carry a big stick." The numbers he's put up with his Louisville Slugger, the same lacquered piece of lumber rumored to provide Griffey with extra power, are astonishing. Apart from four top-10 American League batting finishes, he became only the fourth player in history to register 100 or more RBI in three consecutive seasons before the age of 24 by knocking in 109 last year.

The innkeepers at Cooperstown best leave the lights on for him. But don't wait up; Junior may be awhile. "Even if I play this game for 10 more years, I'm still only 34 or 35 years old, so there's no reason to put pressure on myself....I'm young."

Young and perhaps restless in Seattle? "As long as I'm playing baseball, I'm happy. I love the city, just bought a house in Renton [Wash.], and I know this team can win." A pennant? "Yes," says Griffey with conviction. With a healthy pair of Martinezes

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ONE ON ONE



TOM PRACE

Defense. The word itself is enough to light up Junior's eyes like a young boy on Christmas morning. His "This Week In Baseball" catches have become a trademark and make him arguably the best defensive player in the game.

"I love to play defense because it's just you and the ball, a race," says the 1992 All-Star Game MVP. "You could always go into a hitting slump, but I could never stop playing defense."

Something Junior has learned about the game of baseball—rather, the business of baseball—is that respect is tougher to track down than a fly ball racing toward the gap in left-center.

"All I read is the negative stuff about me, and that pisses me off," he says, looking at the floor. "Nobody is going to be the best player, the best father, the best person. We all make mistakes. If we didn't, there wouldn't be any pop-ups, home runs or touchdowns. If people could see what we go through on a typical day, I believe they'd start understanding and respecting us more. We get tired of people always wanting things from us, asking for this, for that."

He pauses, reflecting and gathering his thoughts like a 10-year veteran. "But respect is one thing everyone is after. I can't spend my time worrying about what other people say or write. It's hard enough just being me."

After all the World Series rings and MVP trophies have collected dust in his home, Junior says one prevailing image will always remain locked away in the memory bank.

It was Aug. 31, 1990, and Junior was in his office, center field. To his right was his dad, who had come out of retirement the previous week. This was not a

Mariners promotional father-son game but a Seattle home game, and the Kingdome was overflowing.

"I played baseball for nearly 20 years, and playing with [Junior] was the No. 1 memory of my career," Senior says. "The time I played with him was special; it was emotional for me. On the field I was his teammate, off the field I was his father, and on the bench I was his coach."

The Griffey's singled back-to-back on that historical night, and three weeks later father and son hit back-to-back home runs at Anaheim Stadium against the Angels. After Senior hit his shot to straightaway center field, he crossed the plate, high-fived his teammate and said, "That's the way you do it, son."

"We could've lost all our games the rest of the season and I wouldn't have cared," says Junior. "We were having such a great time playing together, being teammates, playing baseball."★

Dan Dieffenbach is a Los Angeles-based free-lance writer.

at the corners—both first baseman Tino and third baseman Edgar, the 1992 AL batting champ, were injured for most of last season—Junior feels the Mariners have a legitimate shot. Early predictions list Seattle among the front-runners in the revamped American League West, and, for just the second time since the M's entered the league in 1977, the club finished above water at 82-80 last season.

Number 24 deserves credit, but another primary reason for that turnaround was the hiring of Lou Piniella in 1992, the move that supposedly was to mature Junior. Piniella was dubbed the manager who'd exorcise the kid from The Kid.

The explosive stage was set: Ken Griffey Sr. had been released in 1990 from the Piniella-managed Cincinnati Reds, who went on to win a championship, and now in 1993, the three—the kid, the dad and the manager—all landed in spring training at once. The

media salivated.

But the trio came to the table ready to feast on the American League West. "Before spring, the three of us sat down in Lou's office and had a talk," says Junior, growing serious. "I won't tell you what was said, but we ironed a few things out and talked about the past.... But that's over with. After that talk, everything has been great. Besides, I just need to know that I'm playing center field and hitting third every day."

Piniella compares Junior in work ethic to Don Mattingly, a notable blue-collar player, and in enthusiasm to Dave Winfield, now the second-biggest kid in the game.

"[Junior] is a special kid," says Piniella. "He has a rare passion for this game in all phases—leadership, production." Piniella puffs on his cigarette and begins putting on the Mariners' road jersey, adding: "This kid is the real thing. I'm very fortunate."

"I love to play defense because it's just you and the ball, a race. You could always go into a hitting slump, but I could never stop playing defense."

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Aerosmith
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| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> CLASSICAL ¹⁾
Luciano Pavarotti
Itzhak Perlman | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> JAZZ
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Spyro Gyra | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> HEAVY METAL
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MEMORIES

Looking for the next Paula Abdul? She could be a cheerleader on the sidelines, rallying the crowd for your favorite pro team.

Considering the tone set by our March cover, it seems appropriate to mention a part of the game rarely overlooked by those in attendance at today's sporting events: the cheerleaders.

Their roles may have changed over time but certainly not their enthusiasm. Asked to endure elements such as extreme cold, rain and snow in an effort to entertain the crowds, their dedication is tested each game.

Having been a judge for the Los Angeles Raiders' famous Raiderette cheerleading-squad tryouts for a number of years, I have experienced firsthand the challenge of selecting the final 48 Raiderettes from the more than 500 candidates. It's a tough job—regardless of what some may think.

Although I was not a judge this year, opting to cover the event as a journalist, I did attend all the tryout stages and spoke with the 14 judges—five women and nine men—on the selection committee. The judges, as with the girls, came from varying backgrounds: several from the print and electronic media, others from the entertainment field as producers and agents. Two others won their judging slots—one in a Raiders-sponsored charity auction and the other in a raffle among booster club members. Quite a prize.

Contrary to public perception, the selection process is taken quite seriously. And while appearance is critical, dancing ability is generally the deciding factor. There is no quota system with regard to race, hair color, height or age (nor is NFL team preference considered, though at a Raiderettes tryout, a preference for



CHEERING FOR SPORT

the Raiders is certainly assumed!).

Al LoCasale, a veteran Raiders executive, oversees the audition with the assistance of Raiderette coordinator Mary Barnes.

Former Raiderettes D'Neil Gibson and Evelyn Pantoya are the choreographers; they cast perhaps the most critical eyes over the candidates. The announcement of the season's Raiderettes is met with both tears of joy and sadness.


While the event is important to the Raiders, the benefit to the girls can be quite far-reaching. Perhaps the biggest success story is Paula Ab-

dul, a former Los Angeles Laker girl who became one of the biggest international singing stars around. Other success stories include Teri Hatcher, the former 49ers cheerleader-turned-Lois in ABC's "Lois & Clark" television series; Diane Alexander, who did choreography for Janet Jackson videos; and former SPORT swimsuit cover model Brooke Morales.

The Raiderettes, as with most professional cheerleading squads, make personal appearances and are asked to do a tremendous amount of television and radio work, along with photographic work such as seen in this issue. The exposure is terrific for those looking for a career in the entertainment industry.

I wonder if they might consider inducting a memorabilia columnist? Tryouts for the next Raiderettes squad begin in May. I'll be ready. ★





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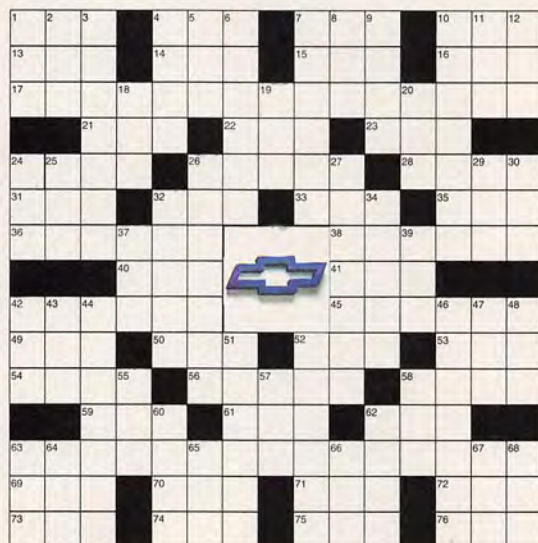
The Chevrolet Truck Across

SPORTword

Puzzle

By Stanley Newman

THE WINTER OLYMPICS



1. Steal
4. The Badgers: Abbr.
7. Four quarts: Abbr.
10. Knicks coach Riley
13. To and
14. Big Sky Conference team: Abbr.
15. Bachelor's last words: 2 wds.
16. "Baseball ___ Funny Game" (Garagiola book): 2 wds.
17. Figure-skating gold medalist in '92: 2 wds.
21. Egypt's "Boy King"
22. An elbow in a pipe or conduit
23. Computer-keyboard key
24. Wild guess
26. To the point
28. He struck out 19 in a '91 game
31. Possess
32. Tyson mentor D'Amato
33. Sympathetic attention: Abbr.
35. ___ Angeles Kings
36. Sportscaster's stadium spots
38. Shortstop's bane
40. Like the spitball
41. Lee, Carlos or Rudy
42. "It is better ___ than to receive": 2 wds.
45. Treatment for swelling: 2 wds.
49. Impress greatly
50. Many months: Abbr.
52. Sign, as a contract
53. Crew-team member
54. Maryland collegian
56. Prepared to hit a chip shot
58. Type of ski lift
59. "Eight ___ Out" (film about the Black Sox)
61. Sabers' home
62. The Class of '94: Abbr.
63. Slalom gold medalist in '68: 3 wds.
69. Golfer Baker-Finch
70. Likely
71. "___ was saying...": 2 wds.
72. CBS logo
73. Fellow
74. Beast of burden
75. Marv Albert exclamation
76. Lion's home

Down

1. Redskins' stadium
2. Boston Bruins great
3. Figure-skating gold medalist in '88
4. Figure-skating gold medalist in '84 and '88
5. General Amin
6. He scored 22 touchdowns in '65
7. Vodka drink
8. Dentist's organization: Abbr.
9. Stadium tier
10. "Brian's Song" subject
11. Baseball-bat wood
12. Randy's skating partner
18. Second-stringer
19. Three-time heavyweight champ
20. Frank Gifford's alma mater: Abbr.
24. Whimper
25. Three and ___ (full count)
26. Boxer Douglas' namesakes
27. Figure-skating gold medalist in '68
29. Lillehammer's country: Abbr.
30. Slalom curve
32. "THE MOST DEPENDABLE, LONGEST-LASTING TRUCKS"
34. Bat-hitting-ball sound
37. ___-night doubleheader
39. Deli bread
42. "I tawt I taw a pudgy ___!"
43. Be obligated to
44. Country that won the most medals at the '92 Winter Olympics
46. Four-person Winter Olympics vehicle
47. Road-service organization: Abbr.
48. Watchdog's warning
51. Jogging wear
52. "Rome wasn't built ___": 3 wds.
55. Reliever's warmup area
57. South American nation: Abbr.
58. Prefix for "fecta"
60. "Final Four" group: Abbr.
62. Gear for 63 Across
63. Irish dance
64. ___ de cologne
65. CDs' ancestors: Abbr.
66. Compass point: Abbr.
67. Strong cleaning solution
68. Sapporo cash

See page 73 for Chevrolet Truck SPORTword Puzzle answers.



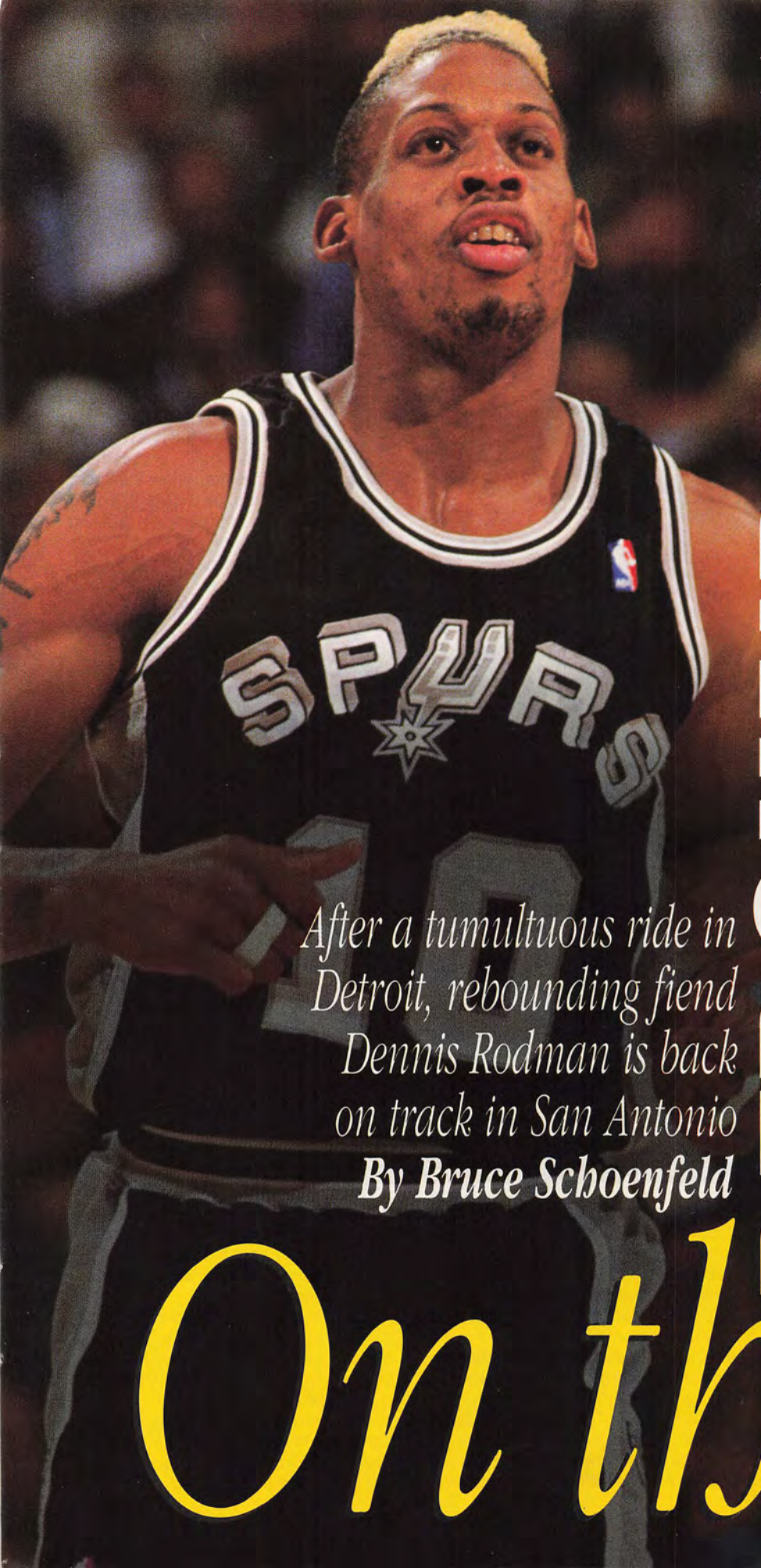
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PHOTOS: ROCKY WIDNER

THERE'S DENNIS RODMAN ON the stationary bike, towel on his head, Pearl Jam blasting through his headphones, working harder than anyone else in the San Antonio Spurs' locker room. But that's not saying much; the Spurs have just beaten the Los Angeles Clippers and have a practice scheduled for the morning. Players step from the shower hushed in their weariness. They pull on pricey leather jackets and head off to dinner, or bed.

After a tumultuous ride in Detroit, rebounding fiend Dennis Rodman is back on track in San Antonio
By Bruce Schoenfeld

ON THE REB

On the

Not Rodman. He stays on the bike for 60 minutes, pumping and straining, the sweat streaming off his hardened body, rolling over the tattoos that decorate his arms, making them glisten. He has nowhere else he wants to go, nothing else he wants to do. Eventually, he and the bike are alone in the empty room, churning out muscle-driven power.

This is real life for Dennis Rodman, who seems to work that much harder than everyone else just to stay in place. He arrived at the Detroit Pistons' training camp seven years ago, an unknown talent from Southeastern Oklahoma State, with three seasons of organized basketball behind him and a sense of abject failure looming. How much has changed since then?

Rodman, 32, averaged more rebounds per game last season than any NBA player in two decades. He plays better front-court defense than anyone in the sport, has two championship rings, and is currently at the top of his game. Yet, when he was acquired by Spurs general manager Bob Bass in exchange for the graceful but limited Sean Elliott, Spurs fans wailed. Why? Rodman's accomplishments were overshadowed by off-the-court controversy that left people doubting his mental health.

Rodman just shrugged and hopped back on the bike, both loving and hating the reaction. "He likes to get people angry at him or doubting him," says Spurs coach John Lucas. "He's like John McEnroe." But on another level, Rodman is a doubter too. "I'm shocked," he says, "whenever I accomplish anything."

By some measures, he is among the top players in basketball. By consensus, he is the most unusual player. Perhaps it's because he hardly played the game until he was 20, having graduated from high school at a scrawny 5-11—nine inches shorter than his current height. Yet, he isn't much like any other player off the court either.

He dresses like a grunge rocker, ripped jeans and a goofy cap. He has a few close friends, both inside and outside the NBA.

"I'm a weird person," he says. "I just don't seem to like people very much."

But he spent three years practically living at the home of a white family in Bokchito, Okla., playing surrogate brother to a boy a generation younger who inadvertently killed a friend in a hunting accident.

That relationship is chronicled in the au-

tobiography *Rebound*, to be released next month. The Pistons, the team he played for during the first seven seasons of his career, don't enter the story until the book's penultimate chapter, 19 pages from the end.

Perhaps that's not surprising, for Rodman's Pistons legacy has been soiled by the events of last season. Lost and embittered without Chuck Daly, the only professional coach he had played for, Rodman missed practices and sometimes arrived only half an hour before games. One still-unex-

pected he still doesn't know whether Rodman was waging a guerrilla war against his own team or simply being himself.

"The trade was best for the Pistons and best for Dennis," Chaney has said.

Maybe he's right. Elliott will give Detroit his steady 16 points a game and will show up on time.

RODMAN WILL TELL YOU NOT TO judge him off the court. This is a man who doesn't like to ride escalators because they

make him feel guilty, traveling all that way with no effort. He says he gave away most of his clothes years ago because he felt uncomfortable dressing up to look like he was better than somebody else. And then you see him in the parking lot at Incarnate Word College, where the Spurs practice, and he's flipping through cloth samples, ordering new sportcoats.

"I'm not sure why I'm doing this," he says. "I don't wear the ones I have."

He draws a circle on a piece of paper. "Most people, they're here," he says, marking dots inside the circle. "Or maybe they're here [poking around the edges]. Very few of them explore all the way out here"—he's well beyond the circle now, near the edge of the paper—"and make it back. In and out. Back and forth. That's the way I am."

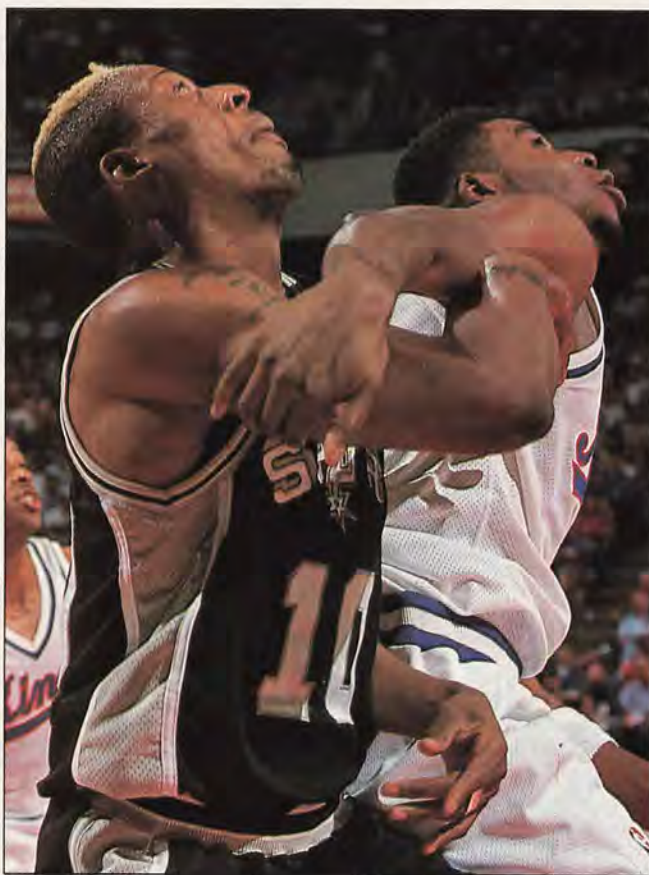
Daly understood that. He put Rodman in his starting lineup and let the rest take care of itself. "Don't think, Dennis, just play," Daly used to tell him. Rodman, hanging on for his emotional life after a tumultuous childhood, appreciated the chance to be responsible for his own actions. "[Daly] made me a man," Rodman says.

Rothstein started when Ron Rothstein was brought in to commentate on Pistons broadcasts. Rodman perceived that as a slight to Daly. When Daly's contract wasn't renewed and

Rothstein was hired, Rodman became distraught. At the same time, his marriage had ended and his wife and daughter had gone to Sacramento, leaving him alone in his cavernous castle of a home.

Then Rodman reported to an exhibition game against Daly's New Jersey Nets at tip-off time and watched the game in street clothes; during halftime, he spent 10 minutes huddled with Daly.

"The first six years he was here, Dennis never missed a practice," says Malone. "He never missed a walk-through. It was only last year, when he became disenchanted



"[Rodman] likes to get people angry at him or doubting him. He's like John McEnroe."

—John Lucas, San Antonio Spurs head coach

plained February morning, he was found sleeping in his car outside The Palace of Auburn Hills with a rifle nearby.

But when the numbers were totaled last season, Rodman, in just 62 games, had collected 1,132 rebounds. And the Pistons, 36-26 with Rodman in their lineup, were 4-16 without him. "Only two players in NBA history can influence a game to that extent by playing defense," says Pistons assistant Brendan Malone. "Bill Russell and Dennis Rodman."

Even so, Rodman had to go. Don Chaney, now the Pistons' head coach, says

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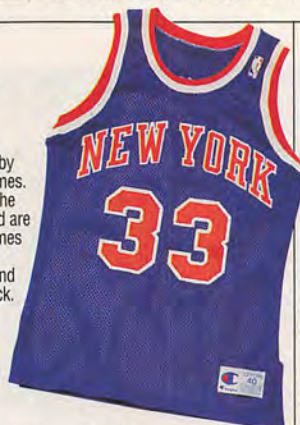
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DEPT 394

with the organization, that everything started to happen."

Before the trade, Lucas and Bass had asked Rodman if he wanted to play for the Spurs. It had become that kind of situation; nobody knew if Rodman was sane. They were amazed at what they learned. Rodman went down the Spurs' roster player-by-player, diagnosing strengths and weaknesses.

"How do you know so much about the Spurs?" Bass asked. "It's not just the Spurs," Rodman said. "I can do that with every team."

"He has the highest basketball IQ of anyone I've ever talked to," Bass says. "We knew he could rebound and play defense. What we didn't realize was how well he passes and sets screens, how aware he is on the court."

Rodman shrugs. "Basically, defense is about knowing what a player can do and what he can't—and then trying to make him do what he can't." His will to do just that is so strong that Lucas immediately anointed him a coach on the floor.

"He raises everyone's intensity," Lucas says. "He's aware. He always knows the clock. He always knows the situation. I keep telling him he should consider coaching someday."

So when Rodman missed two of his new team's first three shoot-arounds, blaming a sick friend and a botched wake-up call, Lucas rationalized the situation. "I'm not a dictator," he says. "The idea here isn't to make him jump through my hoops. The idea is to find hoops for him to jump through that we're both comfortable with."

RODMAN IS A STEALTH REBOUNDER, the cat burglar of the boards. Standing outside the paint, he watches the ball's taut parabola. Suddenly, he's in the air, twisting forward, his insect body colliding with the biggest athletes in sports.

When he comes down, somehow clutching the ball, he seems as surprised as anyone. He looks at it quizzically, tucks it up against his wrist like he's trying to roll it up his arm, and then it's gone—up the floor to a teammate, defense turned to offense with the subtlety of a card trick.

"You can't screen him," says New York Knicks guard Doc Rivers. "You can't block him out because he's in endless motion. You see him on the court, he just jumps, jumps, jumps."

If you want to watch Rodman at his best, follow him when his team doesn't have the

ball. "I've played with a lot of players, but I've never seen anyone like him," says Spurs teammate Antoine Carr. "He's the only player I've ever seen who just doesn't care about offense. He really doesn't care if he takes any shots or not."

Despite a career scoring average of nearly nine points a game, Rodman has told Lucas not to design a single offensive play for him. He said it didn't matter if he didn't shoot the ball all season. He's a talented passer, and Lucas has plugged him into the

as many points on defense as another All-Star forward might have scored.

"His ego was gratified by defense first," says Brendan Malone. "And then he slowly emerged as this phenomenal rebounder who became almost obsessed with getting 20 or more rebounds every game."

In fact, of the five best rebounding seasons in the last quarter-century, Wilt Chamberlain has three, Dennis Rodman two. And Rodman will quietly tell you that the game was different in Wilt's day. "Shooting percentages were a lot lower," he says. "Something like 40 percent. So there were a lot more rebounds to get."

BACK IN THE LOCKER ROOM, Rodman has Janis Joplin on the stereo. "I admire people who do what they believe, no matter how commercial it may or may not be," he says. "I admire people who don't do what everyone expects them to."

In the slickly packaged NBA, where even a singular personality such as Charles Barkley can be marketed like a comic-book character, it's just that attitude that keeps Rodman unique. If NBA Entertainment doesn't know what to make of him, it's only because he often doesn't know what to make of himself.

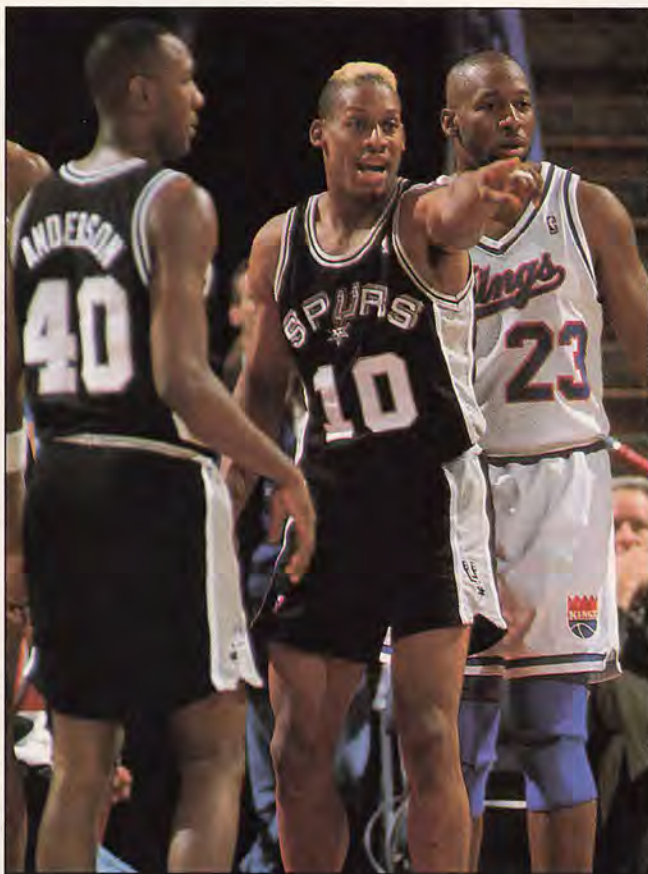
He tells the story of buying the new Pearl Jam CD, walking 12 blocks in the rain through the New York streets wearing torn jeans and a T-shirt, maybe the only millionaire in all of North America who wouldn't have hailed a cab. He then mentions a house he wants to build in Texas, 15,000 square feet and all one room, with a shower stall in the middle. "I don't need a curtain for it because I rarely have guests," he says.

Doc Rivers can attest to Rodman's antisocial nature. He remembers Rodman paying a visit to his home with former Piston Scott Hastings, walking in and immediately heading upstairs to

play with Rivers' young children. After perhaps two hours, Hastings called to Rodman that it was time to leave.

"We hadn't seen him the whole time," Rivers says. "We handed him a plate of food on the way out the door and that was it. But you know, my kids still ask about him. And every time he sees me, he asks about them by name. That's how he is. And, really, how could you think anything bad about someone like that?" ★

Bruce Shoenfeld is a Colorado-based freelance writer.



"I'm a weird person. I just don't seem to like people very much."

—Rodman

Spurs' offense as an auxiliary point guard who stands at the top of the circle and helps distribute the ball. He also has the freedom to shoot from there.

"Rodman got on this wave of defensive rebounding and it never subsided, almost to the point where it was detrimental to his game," says Daly. "He can score off a rebound, but he doesn't always do it."

Rodman would rather use his energy guarding the best scorer on the other team: center, power forward, even shooting guard. He'll ask for the assignment and be hurt if he doesn't get it. His goal is to prevent



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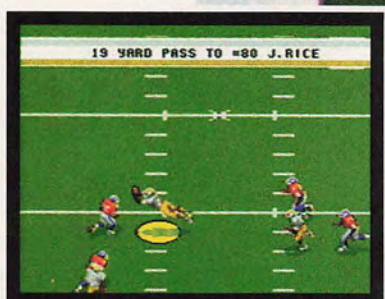
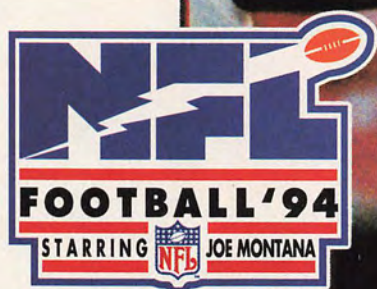
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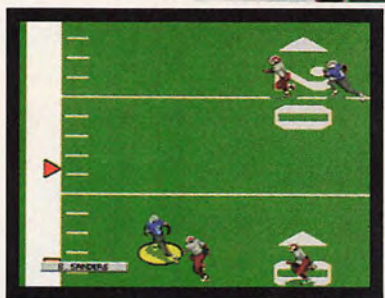
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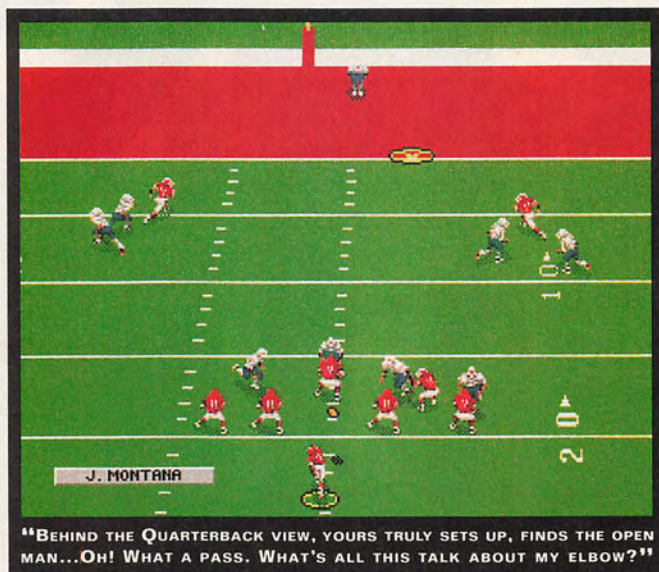


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BY DARRYL HOWERTON

Somewhere along the line, basketball became America's national pastime.

Don't ask how, why or when it happened, because nobody is exactly sure how, why or when the genesis of this nationwide movement occurred.

Maybe the wheels went into motion in 1979 when two rookies named Magic and Bird saved the NBA from a downward financial spiral that had some teams near bankruptcy. Or perhaps the transformation began in the mid-'80s around the time when Error Buckner was replaced by Air Jordan in sports Americana folklore. Or

maybe it happened just recently when the legacies of Willie, Mickey and The Duke gave way to American folk heroes such as Sir Charles, Grandmama and The Shaq.

Or maybe it occurred just last year when, for the first time in the history of the two sports, the NBA Finals commanded a larger television audience than baseball's World Series (17.5 rating to 17.3).

Is baseball still the grand old game, or is it *basketball*, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet?

The essence of diplomacy, NBA commissioner David Stern downplays the labeling, saying: "I really don't think [you can say we're America's pastime]. I think we really coexist. I've often said football is America's passion, baseball is America's pastime, and basketball is America's

game."

But the facts are that baseball's TV ratings and network contracts are declining, football's numbers are holding firm, and basketball continues its rapid rise, in the United States and abroad.

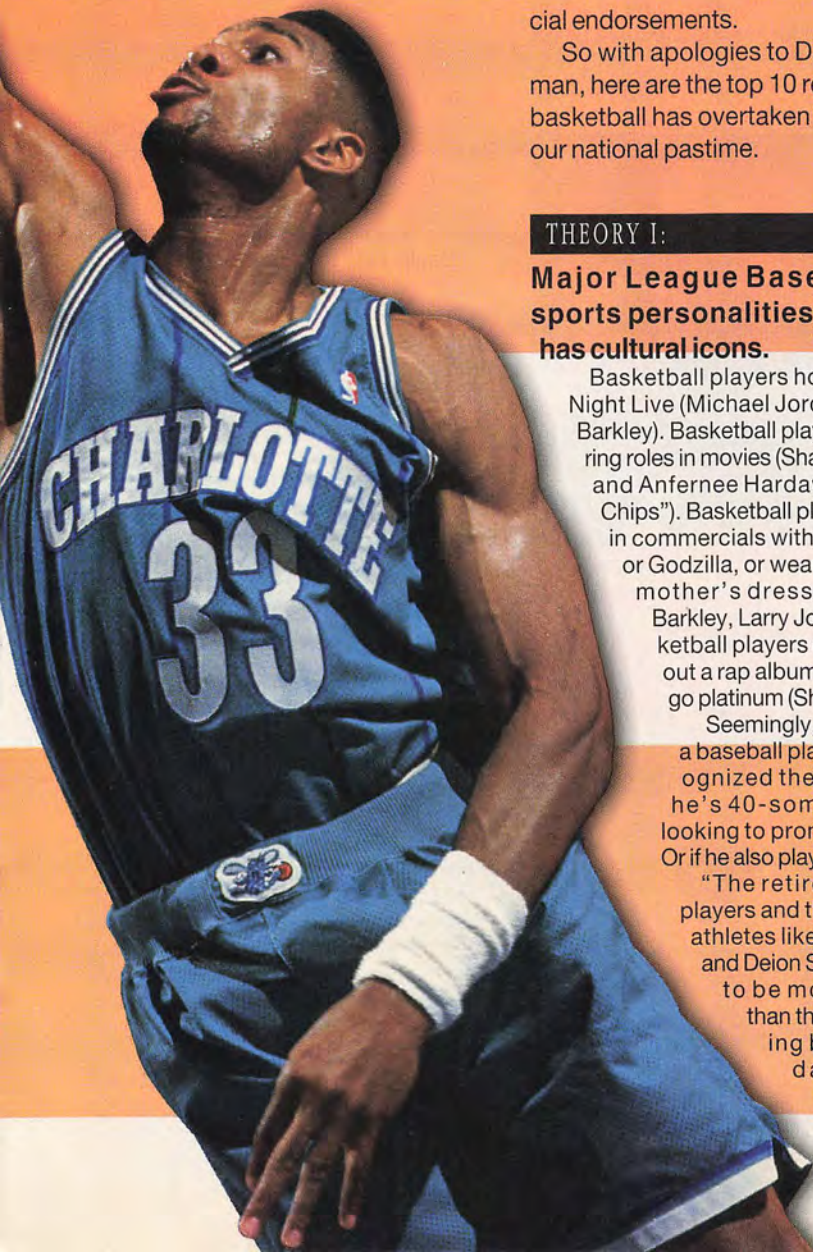
So let it be written here, one decade after Stern took office on Feb. 1, 1984: The ballots have been officially tabulated, and, yes, basketball has indeed replaced baseball as our new national pastime.

Say it ain't so?

Compare the two leagues and their athletes, and it's clear to see that basketball is gaining the edge on its counterpart, whether the barometer is personality Q ratings, attendance figures and merchandise sales, TV ratings and contract payouts, ticket demand, player salaries, or commer-

NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBA PHOTOS

ETBALL



cial endorsements.

So with apologies to David Letterman, here are the top 10 reasons why basketball has overtaken baseball as our national pastime.

THEORY I:

Major League Baseball has sports personalities; the NBA has cultural icons.

Basketball players host Saturday Night Live (Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley). Basketball players get starring roles in movies (Shaquille O'Neal and Anfernee Hardaway in "Blue Chips"). Basketball players appear in commercials with Bugs Bunny or Godzilla, or wear their grandmother's dresses (Jordan, Barkley, Larry Johnson). Basketball players can even put out a rap album and watch it go platinum (Shaq).

Seemingly, the only way a baseball player gets recognized these days is if he's 40-something and looking to promote Geritol. Or if he also plays football.

"The retired baseball players and the crossover athletes like Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders seem to be more popular than those just playing baseball today," says

Henry Schafer, execu-

tive vice president of Marketing Evaluations Inc.

ME Inc. releases the annual Q ratings—calculated from survey results—that corporations use to determine which athletes have the highest "likability" in the U.S. today. Jordan, O'Neal, Scottie Pippen, Barkley and Magic Johnson are the top five, respectively, in the sports personality Q ratings for male teens—the demographic advertisers aim for during their commercial and print ad campaigns—with Larry Johnson and Alonzo Mourning perhaps primed to crack the 1994 Q top 10.

San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds may be baseball's best player, but he doesn't even crack the top 100 on the Q charts. "Baseball players like Barry Bonds just have not formed a favorable bond with the teen-target audience," says Schafer.

Seven of the top nine on the list are basketball names. The other two are football's Jerry Rice (No. 8) and baseball's Mickey Mantle (No. 6), who last swung a bat four years before Shaq was born.

THEORY II:

Basketball has had Stern at the helm for 10 years; baseball has had five commissioners over that same span.

When Stern took over as NBA commissioner, the common perception of the league was that it was "too black, too over-salaried, too involved with drugs," says Stern.

Stern immediately tackled these problems. He got the players union to adhere to an antidrug agreement and salary cap.

Then, using Disney and Time-Warner marketing blueprints as examples, he put a spotlight on the NBA's premier players, regardless of color.

His strategy in each of the three areas netted nothing but positive results, and in turn, much green for owners and players alike.

Meanwhile, baseball had all the continuity of a broken-down jalousie. While commissioners Bowie Kuhn, Peter Ueberroth, the late A. Bartlett Giamatti, Fay Vincent and (commissioner-elect) Bud Selig did nothing individually to damage baseball, the lack of stable leadership since 1984 has certainly impeded the game's progress.

THEORY III:

Basketball is MTV; baseball is VH-1.

Audiences are tuning into the NBA more because the games are shorter, the action is nonstop, and the players are more recognizable. Baseball is longer, slower-paced, less identifiable and more traditional.

Phoenix Suns guard Danny Ainge, the only active player to have played in both major-league baseball and the NBA, says: "When I first came into the league [1981], baseball was the national pastime. Maybe it's because I'm in the NBA, but it seems like basketball has taken over."

"Things have changed. In our society today, we're more into fast foods, fast everything, and basketball's just a faster sport. You come to a basketball game, it's a faster tempo, a lot more action, and you're gone in two hours. I'm an incredible baseball fan, but for the average person, it's a harder sport to sit and watch a game at a ballpark for three hours."

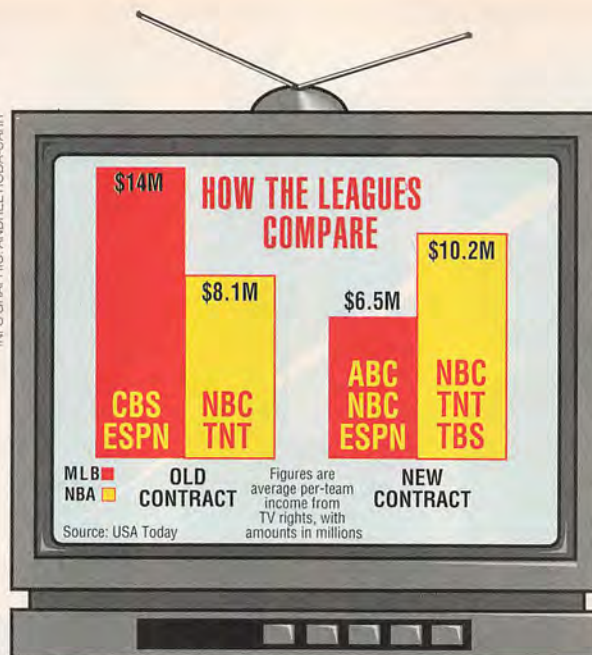
The average baseball game during the 1993 regular season lasted two hours, 52 minutes. That's 22 minutes longer than the 2½-hour average just 15 years ago. The average League Championship Series game last season was 3:15, while the World Series average was 3:29. Is it any wonder why the '92 and '93 World Series were two of the three worst-rated ever? (The only Fall Classic with lower TV ratings was the Bay Area "Earthquake Series" of '89.)

THEORY IV:

Basketball sells its game to our youth; baseball sells its soul to TV.

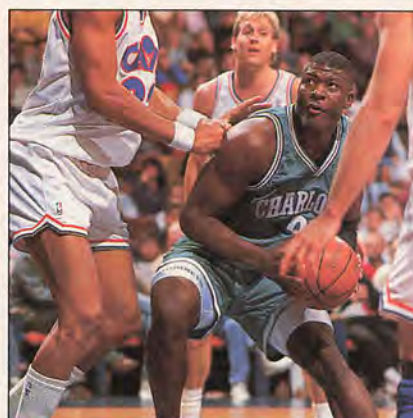
When baseball owners signed away their sport to CBS for \$1.06 billion four

INFO GRAPHIC: ANDREW RODA-CARR



years ago, they gave up such traditions as daytime playoff games and weekly regular-season telecasts, both of which used to help kids develop followings for the sport.

Los Angeles Times TV columnist Lar-



Basketball has targeted kids, who are attracted to the skills and commercial success of players like Larry Johnson.



ry Stewart says, "Daytime World Series games helped make baseball our national pastime." Coming up with excuses to miss school just to be able to stay home and watch the World Series used to be a tradition. Now, with 8:30 p.m. (EDT) starts and 3½ hour games, kids—and adults, for that matter—have to stay up until midnight to see the final out.

Curt Smith, a baseball historian and speech writer for former President George Bush, wrote in *Reader's Digest*: "Where have all the children gone? Baseball owners' and television executives' lust for higher ratings and rights fees turned the World Series into a nighttime show and took it away from children."

Basketball has gone after this younger audience with its NBA Stay In School program, its NBA Inside Stuff TV show on Saturday mornings, and other such fare. The league even has an official spokesman for kids—Suns guard Kevin Johnson.

The results are paying off. A National Sporting Goods Association study shows that the age group from 7 to 17—both male and female—overwhelmingly selected basketball as its favorite sport.

"Basketball has captured the attention of this generation of kids," says NBA Properties president Rick Welts. "If we can sustain that, those kids will have kids, and when it's time to go out and play, odds are they'll be out shooting hoops with their kids."

THEORY V:

Basketball may replace soccer as the international pastime; baseball hasn't even stepped up to the plate globally.

One day last October, Barkley was trying—to no avail—to get the World Series on TV while he was in Germany for the McDonald's Open. "It shouldn't be called the World Series if everybody can't watch it," said Barkley. "Maybe they should just call it the Almost World Series."

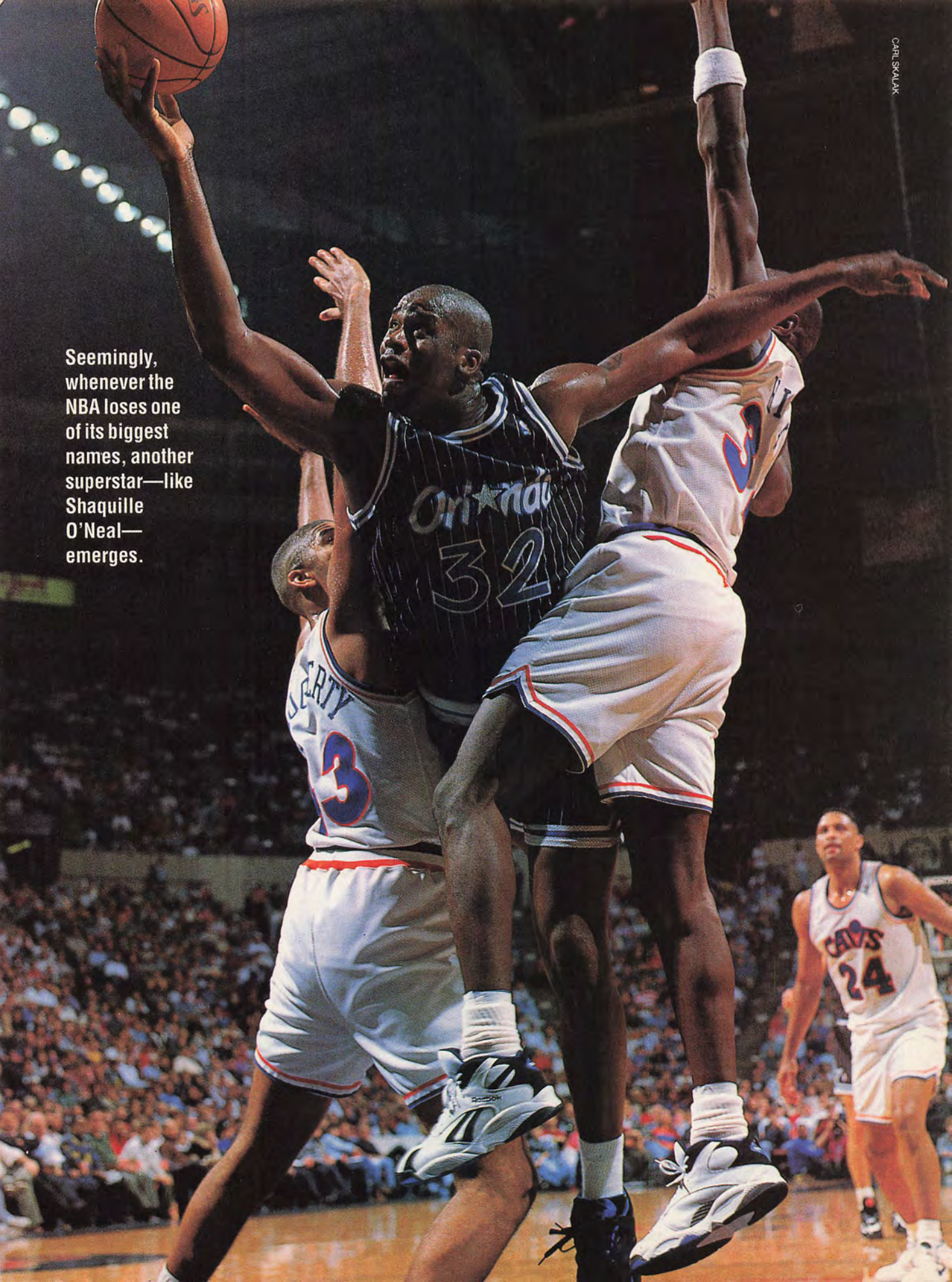
The NBA will be shown in more than 100 countries this season; baseball is shown in 63. The inroads the NBA has achieved over the last two decades have allowed the league to open up offices in Hong Kong, Spain and Victoria, Australia, with one soon coming to Mexico.

The success overseas—the Dream Team in Barcelona, the McDonald's Open all over the Eastern Hemisphere, and the player promotional tours—

DAVID LAM KYLE

DAVID J. SAMST/TEXAS IN PRINT

Seemingly,
whenever the
NBA loses one
of its biggest
names, another
superstar—like
Shaquille
O'Neal—
emerges.



makes the NBA the favorite to tap into the pool of five billion potential fans outside the U.S. (Stern's estimate), in addition to the 250 million in America.

As recently as four years ago, NBA Properties' gross retail sales were half that of Major League Baseball Properties. The NBA now only trails baseball by a 1.3-to-1 ratio.

Last summer, baseball made an overseas effort to win fans by sending Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Lenny Dykstra to Europe as an ambassador for the game. His biggest appearances there, however, were at the opening of a department store and at an autograph signing at a pizza restaurant.

THEORY VI:

Business executives are pouring more money into basketball, less into baseball.

Baseball's biggest advertiser, Anheuser-Busch, has cut back its budget for the sport from \$100 million to \$75 million in the last five years because of declining TV ratings and worries that the game is losing its appeal.

The new Baseball Network agreement with NBC and ABC is for 54 percent less than the \$1.06 billion TV agreement four years ago, with teams now receiving just \$6.5 million each year. The Baseball Network hopes to recoup one-fourth of the television audience that the sport has lost since the mid-'80s.

Meanwhile, the NBA's new contract with NBC and Turner Sports has increased by 26 percent over the old one, with teams now receiving \$10.2 million each year. The new four-year, \$750 million package adds a Thursday Game of the Week, allows all NBA Finals contests and the All-Star Game to be shown in prime time, and enables TNT and WTBS to offer every first-round playoff game with simultaneous doubleheaders in an unprecedented "multiplex" broadcast. Once again behind the times, baseball will regionalize its expanded playoff coverage, leaving viewers without a choice of what game they want to watch.

THEORY VII:

Basketball players have a better rapport with the media than do baseball players.

Detroit Pistons guard Isiah Thomas says, "I think the athlete over the last 10 to 15 years has become more educated about basketball, therefore speaks better about basketball,

"Q" SPORTS PERSONALITY RATINGS

This Q rating is for the male-teen-ager demographic group, the main representative of the market catered to by major advertisers. The Q rating is a likability survey.

1. Michael Jordan
2. Shaquille O'Neal
3. Scottie Pippen
4. Charles Barkley
5. Magic Johnson
6. Mickey Mantle
7. Jerry Rice
8. Phil Jackson
9. Julius Erving
10. Troy Aikman
- Bo Jackson

Source: Marketing Evaluations, Inc.

therefore America understands basketball."

The NBA holds a rookies seminar session that stresses the players' obligations to the media, community, etc. before some even sign with their

teams. The stars set the example—Magic, Larry Bird, Jordan and Barkley have been perennial choices on the league's official all-interview team—and the rest of the league follows suit.

Baseball, meanwhile, has many athletes who never dealt with mass media on a college campus, and in turn aren't prepared for the demands that come with the show.

THEORY VIII:

Unlike baseball players, basketball players have a national following before they enter the professional ranks.

NBA fans already know about NCAA stars such as Glenn Robinson, Jason Kidd and Grant Hill before they reach the pro ranks. But ask the common baseball fan about Cliff Floyd, Carlos Delgado and Manny Ramirez, and be prepared for a look of bewilderment.

"By the time a college player makes it to the NBA," Stern says, "he's been covered by the electronic media, he's on the cover of a number of magazines, and the big question becomes whether he's gonna become a lottery pick or not. Colleges offer a lot of promotion for our players."

THEORY IX:

Basketball has not had lockouts, player strikes or umpire protests that present a league image of greed; baseball has.

Baseball owners have seen the light—for now. A long-threatened lockout will not take place this spring training. And there will be no changes made in the free-agency or salary-arbitration structure, at least until the next winter meetings. However, baseball has failed to come up with a revenue-sharing agreement, which would tackle the sport's major ongoing problem of how to bridge the economic gap between the small-market and large-market teams. But at least it hasn't repeated its past mistakes with a lockout or player strike. Not yet, anyway.

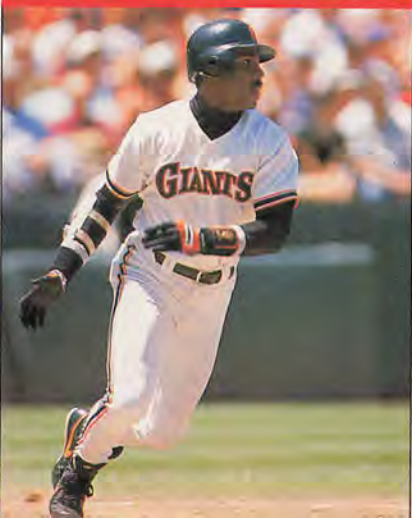
THEORY X:

Baseball was made for radio; basketball was made for television.

Baseball on radio painted a pic-



Shaq will likely be the heir to Jordan as the Q-ratings king, while Bonds, like most baseball stars, is off the map.



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Russ Riederer
Strength and Weight Coach, Chicago Bears



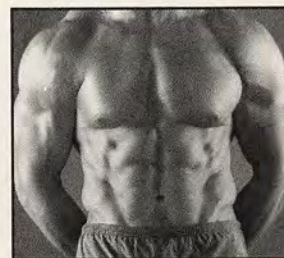
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3 Leg Extension Unit included	YES Permits both leg extensions and lying leg curls.	NO Costs \$200 extra.	YES BUT... Leg unit included doesn't permit lying leg curls.
4 Butterfly Unit included	YES No extra cost.	NO Costs \$200 extra.	YES BUT... You must assemble before each use, and disassemble to use bench press.
5 Strength conditioning for all five major muscle groups	YES HEALTHMAX strengthens all five: arms, legs, abdominals, back and pectorals.	YES BUT... You must purchase \$400 in extra accessories to do comparable exercises for legs and pecs.	YES BUT... Why would you pay \$700 more than HEALTHMAX ?
6 Comfortable bench	YES Padded bench is a full 47" long, 12" wide, and a comfortable 20" high.	NO Padded bench is only 40 1/2" long, making some lying down exercises awkward.	NO Padded 40" bench is short, narrow (only 9" wide), and too high (24") off the ground.
7 Hydraulic cylinder resistance system	YES Adjusts to your personal resistance level with a simple twist of a dial.	NO Uses rubber bands which must be changed to vary resistance level.	NO Uses complicated cord/pully/mechanical resistance system.
8 Full refund of return freight if unit returned	YES If not satisfied, we will refund your cost, shipping/handling charges, and all return freight!	NO You pay over \$85 to return. It must go by truck to Oregon!	NO You pay about \$65 to return by UPS.
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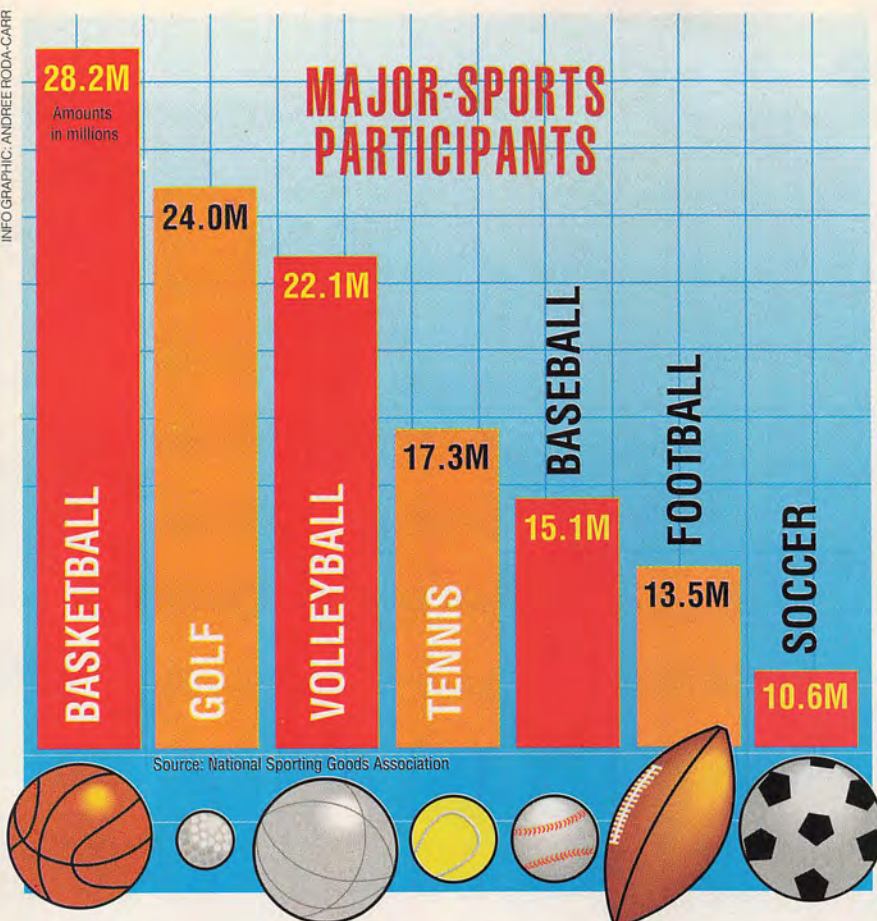
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ture. The announcers were artists who had a vast canvass with which to display their craft. Television came along and made the announcers narrow their work to TV's dictations: sound bites, quick instant-replay analysis.

"If you were designing a game for the 1990s," says Welts, "and you input all the things that you were taking into consideration, it would come out of your computer as something that looks exactly like basketball."

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"It can turn, though, anytime," says Ainge. "Like it did with baseball. Baseball might turn back in the year 2000, or I could see the cycle changing and football becoming the hot sport. Things can happen different, and in the near future. It's hard to look ahead and predict what's gonna happen. But if I *had* to predict, I see basketball getting more popular in the near future."

If that's the case, Major League Baseball just may have lost its century-long grip on the American public for good. ★

STEVE LUPOFSKY



Colorful stars such as Charles Barkley set the example, and the younger players follow suit—one reason the NBA will continue to thrive.

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patty

Suit: Point Conception





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alison

Suit: Point Conception



shannon
Suit: Bendigo



micki

Suit: Darling Rio



A full-page photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue, pink, and yellow patterned bikini, lying on her stomach in the ocean surf. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background shows the ocean waves under a blue sky.

billee

Suit: Pan Dulce



heidi

Suit: Beach Pizazz



A woman with short, dark, curly hair is lying on her stomach on a sandy beach. She is wearing a shiny, metallic green bikini top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred beach scene with some colorful objects in the distance.

shauna
Suit: Microwave

patty
Suit: Twins





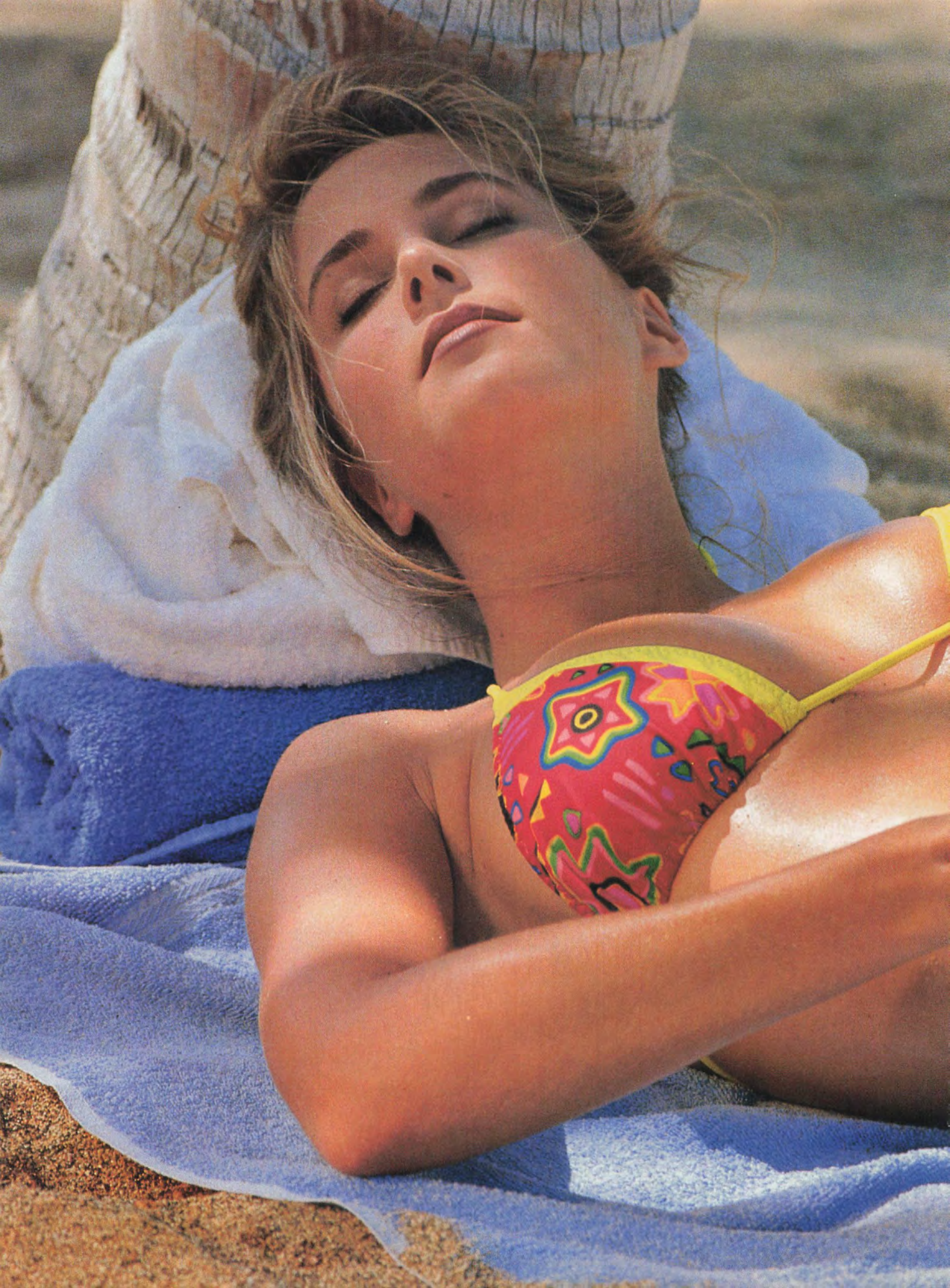


jodi

Suit: Beach Pizazz



alison
Suit: Jag



A close-up photograph of a person's back and shoulders. They are applying a temporary tattoo that features a yellow border and a pink center with the word 'MOM' in a stylized font. The person is holding the edges of the tattoo with their hands. They are wearing a colorful, patterned bikini top. The background is a blurred beach scene with sand and water.

shannon

Suit: Pan Dulce

A full-page photograph of a woman with dark hair and eyes closed, floating in the ocean. She is wearing a black one-piece swimsuit with large white polka dots. Her head is tilted back, and her hands are near her face. The water is dark blue with white foam from the waves. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast, artistic effect.

patty
Suit: Dorita Vera





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Suit: Venus



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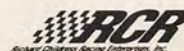
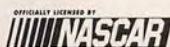
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Suit: Kechika



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A full-page photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling and leaning against a palm tree. She is wearing a bright red, one-piece swimsuit with a black zipper running down the center. She is also wearing black bikini bottoms. Her hands are resting on a wooden crate in the foreground. In the background, there are several yellow and blue oars leaning against a wall, and a sign with the number '02' is partially visible.

shannon

Suit: Jag



leslie

Suit: Darling Rio

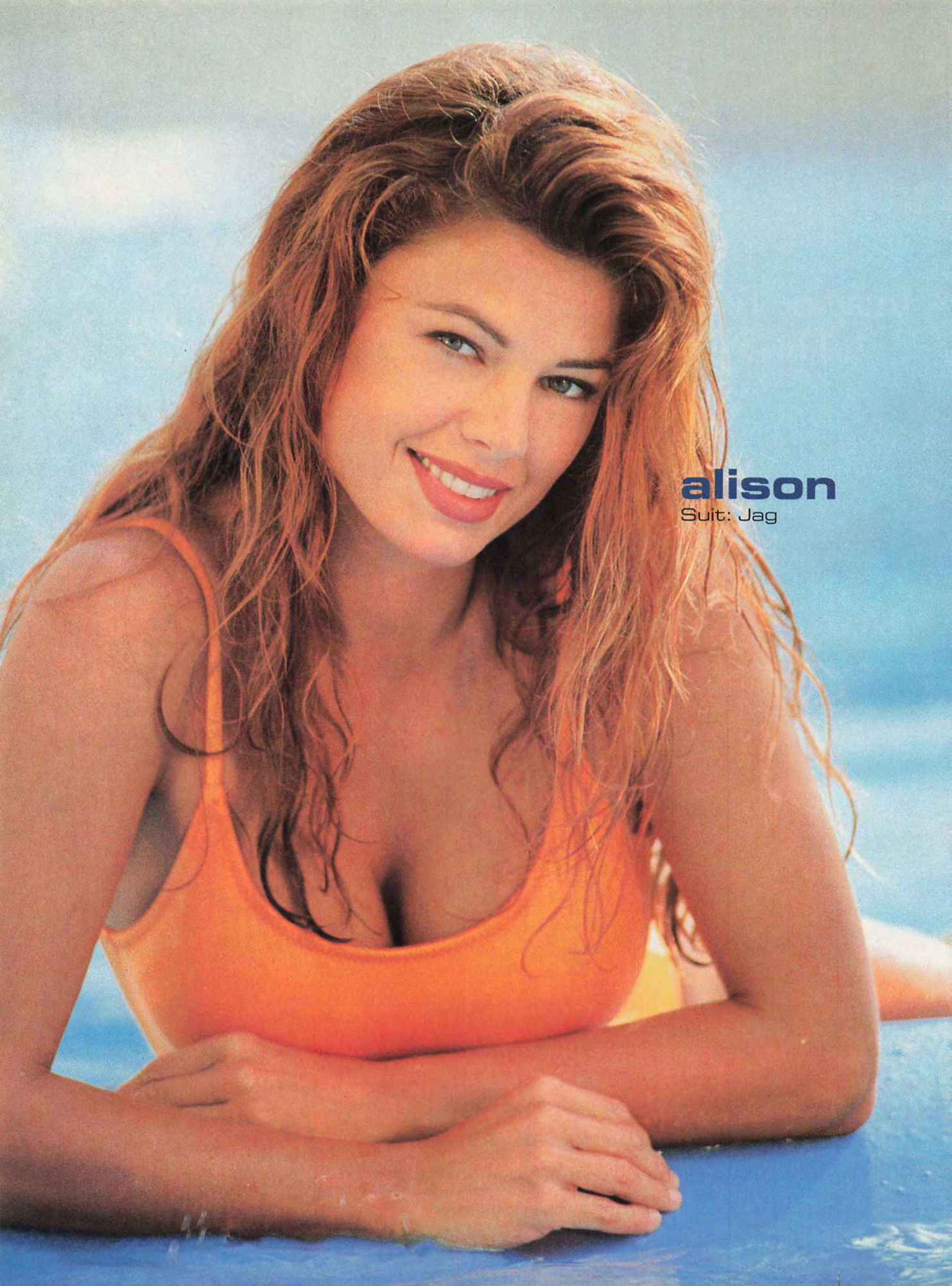
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alison

Suit: Jag

A full-page photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, posing in a tropical setting. She is wearing a two-piece bikini with a vibrant, multi-colored geometric pattern. She is looking back over her shoulder at the camera. The background features palm fronds and a body of water under a clear sky.

patty

Suit: Beach Lingo

FEAR OF FLYING...HOW ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE TRACK AFTER THEY'VE SEEN 200 MPH? BY RICK VOEGELIN

It's a race promoter's worst nightmare. The image of an out-of-control race car careening into a packed grandstand is a specter that has haunted auto racing since the sport's earliest days.

Tragedies have happened. Eighty-two died at LeMans in 1955. Fourteen perished in Monza in 1961. Modern safety standards have reduced the carnage, but errant wheels and flying sheet metal still take lives with random indifference at race tracks in the '90s.

That racing is a risky business is self-evident. Drivers take these risks willingly—and prepare for the worst with fire-resistant suits, protective helmets, and sturdy roll cages. But fans bargain for nothing more than an afternoon's entertainment when they take their seats. The barriers between race cars and race fans can prove frighteningly fragile. Concrete walls and chain-link catch fences can't be counted on to contain the energy of every high-speed crash.

Auto racing is on a roll in postindustrial America. Things have never been better, with television packages and corporate sponsorships propelling the sport to new heights. But the horrific impact of a televised accident involving dozens of spectators could do irreversible damage to racing's reputation.

Officials and track operators recognize that auto racing's future hinges on preventing the possibility of spectator injuries. If that means slowing the race cars in the pursuit of safety, so be it.

Without outside intervention, race cars inevitably get faster; race tracks do not. A circuit designed for 150-mph race

cars can turn treacherous when speeds climb toward 200 mph. At that velocity, a race car travels nearly the length of a football field every second, and drivers have only an instant to steer clear of trouble.

Stock car racing has confronted the dilemma of too much speed. The season-opening Daytona 500, held in mid-February in Daytona Beach, Fla., is NASCAR's "Super Bowl"—the most prestigious event on the 31-race national tour. The immense Daytona International Speedway complex is the crown jewel of the stock car circuit. But the high-banked 2.5-mile superspeedway is simply too fast for its own good.

Left to themselves, racing teams would soon have their aerodynamic machines circling Daytona at warp speed. But NASCAR officials have throttled their star performers with a diabolical device known as a "restrictor plate." Sandwiched between the carburetor and intake manifold, the plate reduces the flow of fuel and air into the engine to a relative trickle.

The plates are fiendishly effective. A restrictor turns a 700-horsepower warhorse into a 450-horsepower pony. Drivers, crew chiefs and team owners are virtually unanimous in their opinion: They hate the plates.

Their ire is understandable. Racing with restricted engines is like Joe Montana quarterbacking in a championship football game with 30-pound wrist weights.

The plates are used only four times a season at the series' two fastest tracks,

Daytona and Talladega. Yet the importance of the events at these showcase facilities demands that teams develop special engines, camshafts and intake manifolds just for these races. The research and development costs are staggering.

But so are the payoffs. Dale Earnhardt's success at the "restrictor tracks" last season propelled him to his sixth NASCAR championship. In four races at Daytona and Talladega, Earnhardt posted two wins, one runner-up, and a fourth-place finish. In contrast, Rusty Wallace, who finished second to Earnhardt in the championship, never placed higher than sixth with a restrictor plate.

Earnhardt banked 277 more points than Wallace in those four events. The advantage he built up at Daytona and Talladega proved insurmountable even though Wallace won 10 of 30 races last season.

Stock car racing has other techniques to keep the cars on the track and out of the bleachers. Side windows, spoilers, air dams and vents are a few of the aerodynamic tweaks that are designed to keep the tires on terra firma. But the rulemakers' most effective weapon is perception. It's close competition that the fans pay to watch, not absolute speed. Few can perceive a two-second difference in lap times, but all can experience the excitement of wheel-to-wheel racing.

The days of 200 mph stock cars at Daytona may be gone forever, but the racing has never been safer for the fans in the stands. ★

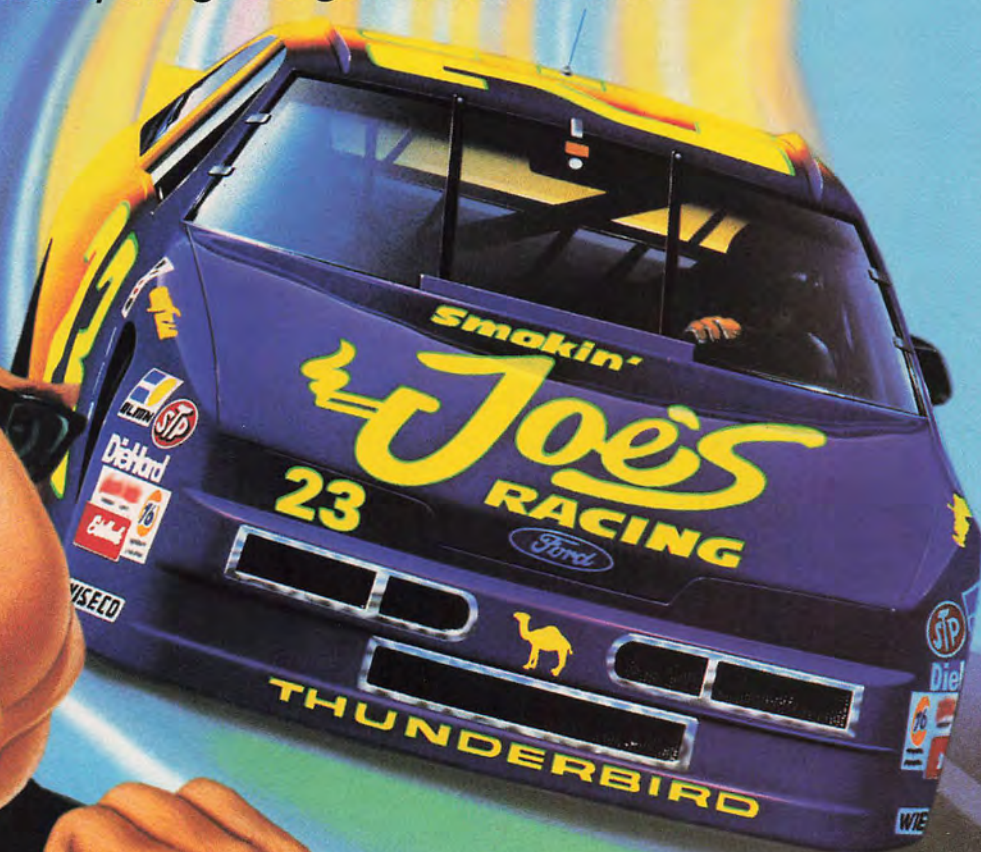


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DERRICK COLEMAN

"I'M THE BEST IN THE NBA AT MY POSITION. PERIOD"



Sitting here today at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Marina Del Rey, Calif., is a more mature, milder Derrick Coleman, the New Jersey Nets power forward who not long ago turned down a \$69 million contract extension. Coleman is relaxed and refreshingly personable—quite the opposite of the way he's been portrayed by some media people.

How can this guy, laughing and joking and carrying on in such a humble manner, be the same guy who's been referred to as a troublemaker, a cancer in the locker room? How can this be the same guy who's trashed teammates and management,

who's missed practices and planes? *How?* This is the new Derrick Coleman.

A native of Detroit and an alumnus of Syracuse University, Coleman, or "DC" as his buddies call him, blew into the NBA in 1990 and immediately dubbed himself an All-Star. He captured Rookie of the Year honors and last season received his greatest recognition, cracking the 20-10 barrier (20.7 points, 11.2 boards) before devouring the Cleveland Cavaliers in the playoffs, averaging 26.8 points and 13.4 rebounds, a performance that catapulted Coleman—in his mind, at least—to the top of the power-forward chart.

"The whole world," he says, "found out what a great player Derrick Coleman is."

SPORT: Since the day you entered the NBA, you've considered yourself an All-Star, yet this year will be, in all likelihood, the first time you make it. Why has it taken so long?

COLEMAN: Politics. That's the only reason why.... Last year was the biggest disgrace of all, a mark against the people who vote. We were winning, and me, Drazen Petrovic, Kenny Anderson all deserved to go and none of us did. It was a sham.

SPORT: You've always thought pretty highly of yourself, so much so that you actually said you're better than Charles Barkley and Karl Malone. What prompted you to make such a statement?

COLEMAN: Confidence. To me, I'm the best in the NBA at my position. Period. To me, no one's better and no one can beat me. But what I said about Charles and Karl was taken the wrong way. What I said was I was more versatile than Charles and Karl, and believe me, I am.

SPORT: But are you as great as they are?

COLEMAN: Definitely. Some people may look at that and say, "Derrick Coleman is cocky, a big mouth." But the fact is, other than me, Charles is the only guy at my position who can get a

BY RICK WEINBERG

year that your popularity would rise to another level, but it hasn't. Why?

COLEMAN: As a player, I rose to another level. Because of the exposure on TNT and NBC, the whole world found out what a great player Derrick Coleman is, even though I was already having a great season. But on the endorsement side, no, it hasn't happened. I don't know why. But I'm not worrying about it anymore. It'll happen.

SPORT: Do you think playing for the Nets, not exactly a marquee team, has something to do with it?

COLEMAN: Maybe. The Nets aren't looked at in the same way as the Bulls, Knicks, Lakers, Celtics. They're the teams with tradition—winning traditions. We're not there yet.

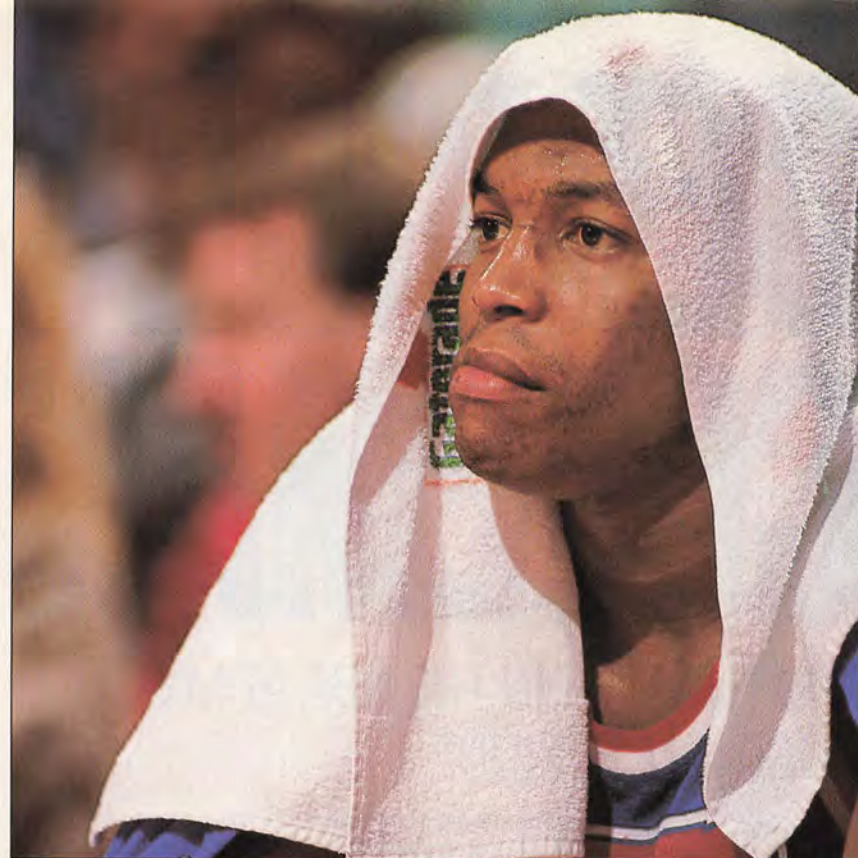
SPORT: Even the Charlotte Hornets and Orlando Magic seem to be more marquee than the Nets. Why is that?

COLEMAN: I wish I knew why. There's no question that they're the teams of the future, but I see us the same way. With me and Kenny Anderson, we have two solid building blocks.

SPORT: OK, let's get to the subject everyone wants to read about: the money.

COLEMAN: No, no, forget it. I'm not talking about the money.

SPORT: You've got to. If we don't talk money with the man who turned down \$69 million, this story is dead.



Coleman on the state of the Nets: "Everything's gone downhill so fast. All the respect we had gained the last year, that's gone. We're still respected, still competitive, but not like we were."

rebound, go the full length of the court with guards floating on the wings, and go in for a dunk.

SPORT: What about Larry Johnson?

COLEMAN: Yeah, but it's the media who create that perception, and they're doing quite a job on Shaq. Don't get me wrong. Shaq deserves it. He's a great, great player, a dominant, powerful player who does things

that have never been done before in this league.

SPORT: Do you crave the exposure that Shaq receives?

COLEMAN: Everyone does. Everyone craves the spotlight, the endorsements. I'm not different than anyone else in that area, and it'll come for me. But I'd never want to be in the spotlight a la Michael Jordan. That's going overboard.

SPORT: You had to figure after averaging 26 points and 13 rebounds in the playoffs last

COLEMAN: It wasn't \$69 million.

SPORT: What was it?

COLEMAN: More like 50-something. There was an option at \$13 million. *Their* option.

SPORT: Then how in the world could you turn down \$56 million?

COLEMAN: I didn't want to jump into something without knowing all the options, without analyzing everything.

SPORT: What happens if you tear up a knee

"[The Nets] had a major setback—a setback that'll take time to recover from. The problem is that we have so many new guys. When we went to camp [this season], there were eight new faces. It was like I didn't know anyone besides Kenny [Anderson] and Chris Morris."

COLEMAN: He's good. He can do it, but not as smooth as me. He's not as versatile as me. But he's close.

SPORT: If you're so great, does it bother you that Shaquille O'Neal, and even Alonzo Mourning, get far more exposure than you?

COLEMAN: Not at all. First of all, they're centers. We're totally different people who play totally different positions.

SPORT: What does that have to do with it? Personality and performance make someone marketable, right?

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AUTHENTICS

Larry Johnson
Charlotte Hornets

Sam

this month? Then there would be no money at all, right?

COLEMAN: I've got an insurance policy that covers me if I rip up a knee. Anyway, the way I look at it, you can't miss something you never had. I never had the \$69 million, so I won't miss it.

SPORT: What would that insurance policy pay you if you tore up a knee and your career was history?

COLEMAN: That's personal. But it's not \$69 million.

SPORT: Let's cut the nonsense. The bottom line is that you don't want to play for the Nets and that's why you turned down the contract, right?

COLEMAN: Now why would you say that? That's not why I turned down the money. I enjoy playing for the Nets and I've never said I didn't enjoy playing for them. If I didn't want to play for the Nets, why would I have come here to begin with? I could've gone to Europe. The bottom line is that I like it in New Jersey and I like playing for the Nets.

SPORT: But wouldn't you rather play in your hometown of Detroit, or for Miami, where some of your closest friends play?

COLEMAN: Everyone dreams of playing at home. That's every player's dream. It's convenient playing at home. Look at Dominique [Wilkins] in Atlanta. He's been there forever—college, pros. It's convenient for him. So yeah, I've thought about playing in Detroit, but that doesn't mean I will.

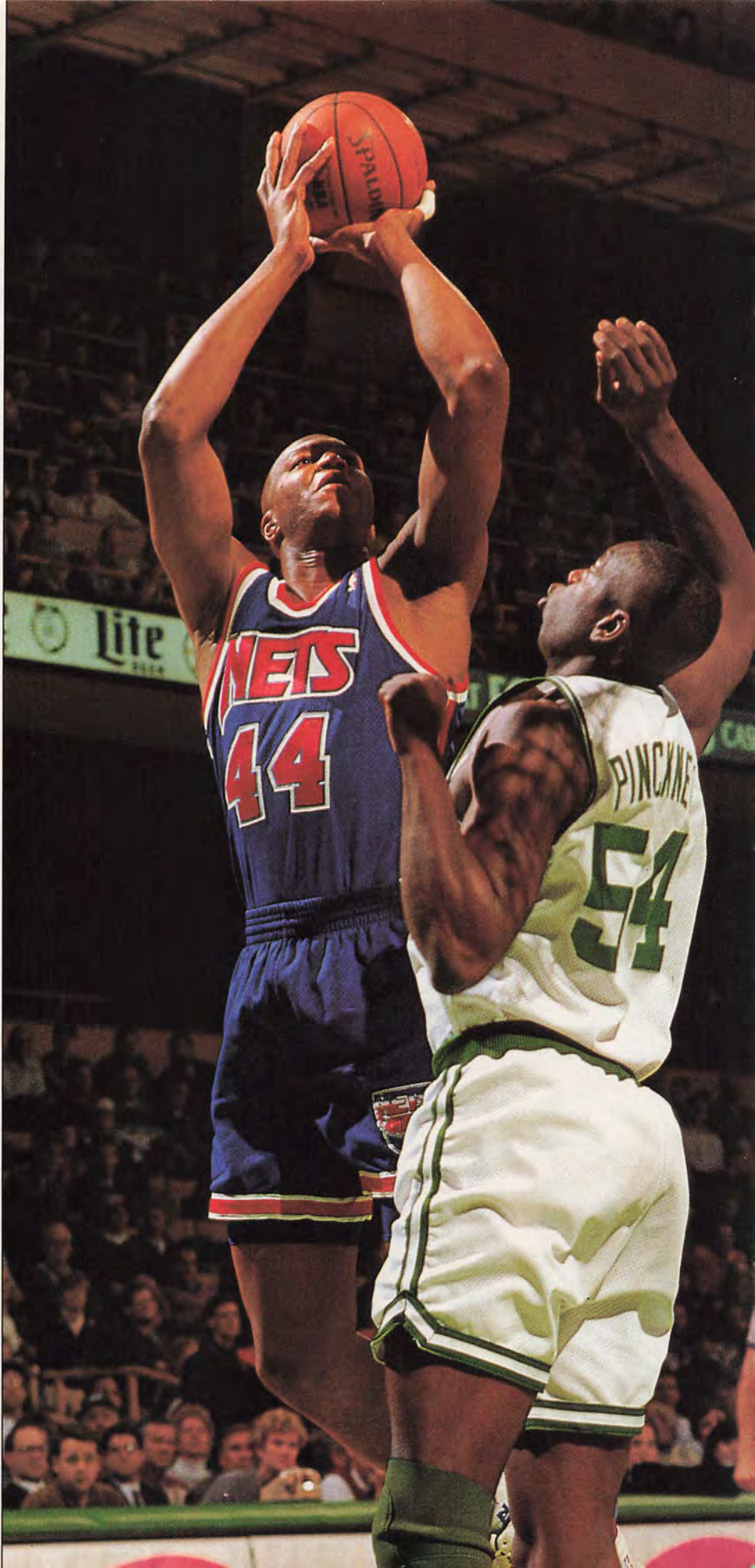
SPORT: And Miami?

COLEMAN: Not a bad idea. Everyone knows how close I am to Steve Smith. I love him. He's one of my best friends. Rony Seikaly's there. Glen Rice, Willie Burton, John Salley. But I just don't know.

SPORT: Can you see yourself playing the rest of your career in New Jersey?

COLEMAN: Definitely. I've got no problem with that....I've enjoyed the area. I went to school in the area. Got a lot of friends from New York, Connecticut, Jersey. I love going to Giants and Jets games. I get to see my buddy Rob Moore [formerly of Syracuse and now with the New York Jets]. It's convenient being on the East Coast. So yeah, I could definitely see myself spending the rest of my life in Jersey.

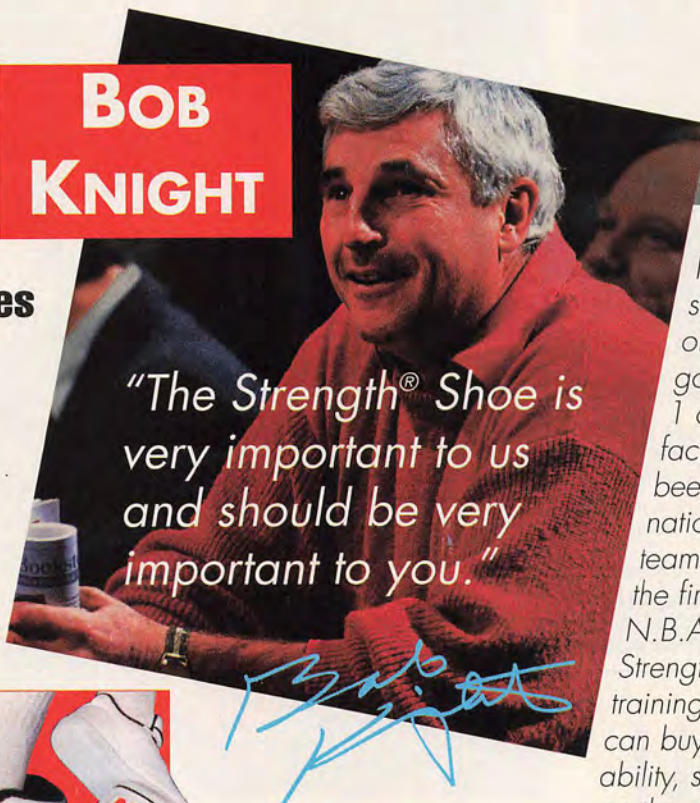
Coleman's game is multifaceted, exemplified by the big guy's ability to shoot the J.



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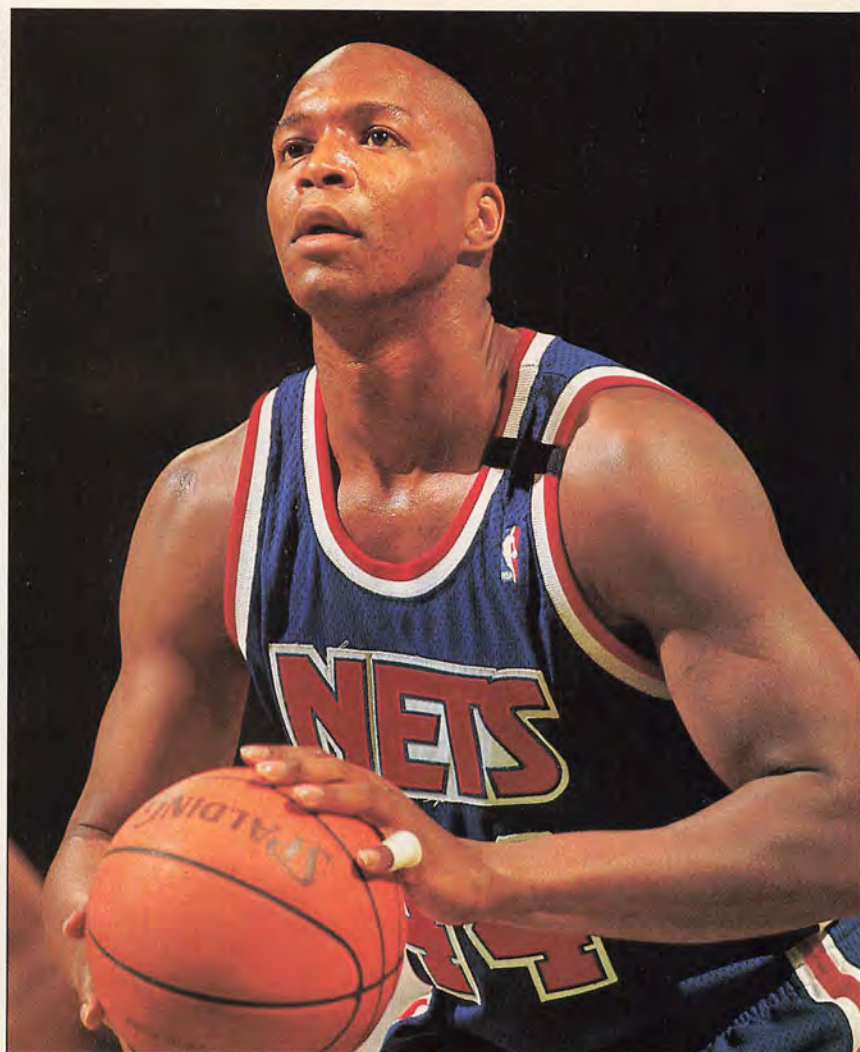
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STEVE LOPOFSKY



Coleman finally received the recognition last year he's felt he's deserved by averaging more than 20 points and 11 boards a game.

SPORT: Just one year ago, NBA people were saying the Nets were a couple years away from a championship. Then Mookie Blaylock is traded, Terry Mills and Chris

last year. Losing Terry and Mookie...I was very critical of [management for letting them go], but that's history. We're over that. You can't keep complaining. You

"What I said was I was more versatile than Charles [Barkley] and Karl [Malone], and believe me, I am."

Dudley leave through free agency, and Drazen Petrovic is killed in a car accident. Where do you begin expressing your feelings about this abrupt turnaround?

COLEMAN: [*Long silence, shakes head slowly*] Everything's gone downhill so fast. All the respect we had gained the last year, that's gone. We're still respected, still competitive, but not like we were. This is just a temporary setback though. We'll recover. It's just sad when you look back over the

have to move ahead. Losing Dudley hurt because if he plays 30-35 minutes, he can put up some great [rebounding] numbers. Losing Drazen...that...that really hurt. It was so tragic. He was so special. [*Voice cracking*] To me, he was a hero. Not just for the Nets, not just for the NBA, but for all of Europe. I was crushed when I heard about the accident. Just a week earlier, me and Drazen were laughing, joking, playing around, telling each other to have a great summer and that we were going to make a

BASEBALL '94 PREDICTIONS

NEXT MONTH IN
SPORT

run for the championship this season. Then two weeks later, he's gone. I'm still not over it. It was like losing a member of your family.

SPORT: Will you guys recover and return to a championship-caliber club?

COLEMAN: It'll be hard. It'll take time. We had a major setback, a setback that'll take time to recover from. The problem is that we have so many new guys. When we went to camp, there were eight new faces. It was like I didn't know anyone besides Kenny [Anderson] and Chris Morris. It's like we're almost starting from scratch. But like I said, with me and Kenny as the cornerstones, we'll be back.

SPORT: What about Kenny Anderson? Where do you rank him among the NBA point guards?

COLEMAN: Right at the top. The very top.

SPORT: Better than Tim Hardaway, Mark Price and John Stockton?

COLEMAN: Definitely. He's a great point guard, the best I've ever seen. He knows when to dish, who to dish it to, and where. He's a great penetrator—quicker to the basket than anyone I've ever seen. I've seen him squeeze through holes where I've wondered, "Is he gonna get through that tiny gap?" He comes at you in so many different ways. He makes my job so much easier. We work so well together, people are starting to call us the East Coast version of Stockton and Malone.

SPORT: What about your coach, Chuck Daly. Why do you get along so well with him but couldn't get along with your former coach, Bill Fitch?

COLEMAN: Chuck's fun to play for. He understands me. Fitch didn't. Chuck creates a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Everybody has a good time playing basketball for him. With Fitch, it was tense. Chuck takes his job seriously, but not too seriously. He doesn't overdo it. With Fitch...well, not everybody sees eye-to-eye, and we didn't see eye-to-eye on a lot of things.

SPORT: Last question. If you make the All-Star team, what are you gonna feel like with that spotlight shining on you at the introductions at Minneapolis?

COLEMAN: Like a million bucks.

SPORT: Not \$69 million?

COLEMAN: [Laughs] No, I'll tell you, it'll be sweet. It's a moment I've dreamed about. It's something I deserve.★

SHAQ SPEAKS

EXCLUSIVE Q&A

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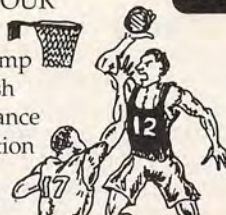


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1983 DETROIT VS. DENVER ★

PISTONS OUTLAST NUGGETS IN HIGHEST-SCORING GAME IN NBA HISTORY BY JEFF RYAN

Strange things can happen in the thin air of Denver. In 1969, New York Jets kicker Steve O'Neal sailed a 98-yard punt through it. In 1993, Colorado Rockies first baseman Andres Galarraga hit a 473-foot homer in it. And on Dec. 13, 1983, the Detroit Pistons and Denver Nuggets sank so many bull's-eyes in the thin air at McNichols Arena that it wasn't clear who was more exhausted by game's end, the players or the scoreboard operator.

When the game was finally over, the Pistons had fired two more bullets on target than had the Nuggets. In the highest-scoring game in NBA history, Detroit prevailed 186-184 in *triple overtime*.

"I thought the board was gonna run out of numbers," says Kiki Vandeweghe, who had 51 points for Denver, shooting 21 of 29 from the field.

"It was a very rare night," adds the Pistons' Isiah Thomas, who poured in 47. "We were two running teams who were shooting well, so everybody was turned on."

Nobody expected to see an incredible 370 points that night, but the potential for an offensive explosion of some kind was certainly there. "We knew we were in for a high-scoring game whenever we played Denver because they ran so much," says former Pistons forward Kelly Tripucka. "Whoever played even a *little* defense would win. On a personal basis, you knew it was a night to pad your scoring."

Pad it, yes, but send the statistics through the arena roof? In addition to Vandeweghe's 51 and Thomas' 47, Denver's Alex English had 47, Detroit's John Long tallied 41, and Tripucka added 35.

It was 38-34 Pistons after the first quarter and 74-74 at halftime. With Vandeweghe and English on overdrive, the Nuggets took a 113-108 lead after three quarters. In the fourth quarter, the Motown sound wasn't Smokey Robinson or The Temptations, it was *swish*. Detroit rallied to tie the score at 145 by the end of regulation.

"Believe it or not, it was an intense game even though it was [a high-scoring game]," says Vandeweghe. "The intensity kept it real close the whole time, and a series of fluke



Detroit's John Long hit for a mere 41; three others scored more in this 370-point shootout.

shots kept it from ending. A couple of times, somebody hit an unbelievable shot to tie it up in the final seconds."

With the Pistons down by three in the final seconds of the first overtime, for instance, Thomas sank one foul shot, then purposely missed the second in hopes that a teammate would grab the rebound and score. Instead, it bounced right back to Thomas, who hit a jumper to tie the game at 159 and force a second overtime.

"I kept thinking we should all agree that the first team to 200 wins," says Tripucka. "There actual-

UPI/BETTMANN

GREAT GAMES

HIGHEST-SCORING GAME IN NBA HISTORY

DEC. 13, 1983, AT DENVER

DETROIT PISTONS

DENVER NUGGETS

	Pos.	FGA	FGM	FTA	FTM	Pts.		Pos.	FGA	FGM	FTA	FTM	Pts.
Kelly Tripucka	F	25	14	9	7	35	Alex English	F	30	18	13	11	47
Cliff Levingston	F	2	1	0	0	2	Kiki Vandeweghe	F	29	21	11	9	51
Bill Laimbeer	C	10	6	9	5	17	Dan Issel	C	19	11	8	6	28
Isiah Thomas	G	34	18	19	10	47	Rob Williams	G	8	3	4	3	9
John Long	G	25	18	6	5	41	T.R. Dunn	G	3	3	2	1	7
Terry Tyler		15	8	3	2	18	Mike Evans		13	7	2	2	16
Vinnie Johnson		12	4	5	4	12	Richard Anderson		6	5	3	2	13
Earl Cureton		6	3	5	3	9	Danny Schayes		1	0	12	11	11
Ray Tolbert		4	1	4	1	3	Bill Hanzlik		4	0	2	2	2
Walker Russell		2	1	0	0	2	Howard Carter		1	0	0	0	0
Kent Benson		1	0	0	0	0	Ken Dennard		1	0	0	0	0
David Thirdkill		0	0	0	0	0							

Totals 136 74 60 37 186

FG Pct.: .544. FT Pct.: .617. Team Rebounds: 16. Minutes Played—Thomas 52, Laimbeer 47, Long 46, Tripucka 39, Cureton 34, Tyler 28, Johnson 21, Tolbert 15, Benson 13, Levingston 13, Russell 6, Thirdkill 1. Total Rebounds—Laimbeer 12, Tyler 8, Cureton 7, Long 6, Tolbert 6, Johnson 5, Thomas 5, Tripucka 4, Levingston 2, Benson 1. Assists—Thomas 17, Johnson 8, Long 8, Laimbeer 6, Cureton 2, Tolbert 2, Tripucka 2, Russell 1, Tyler 1.

Score by Periods:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	OT	OT	TOTALS
Detroit	38	36	34	37	14	12	15	186
Denver	34	40	39	32	14	12	13	184

3-pt. Field Goals: Thomas 1-2, Anderson 1-1, Issel 0-1. Officials: Joe Borgia and Jesse Hall. Attendance: 9,655. Time of game: 3:11.

ly was defense being played. You weren't *letting* guys go down the lane, but you couldn't stop anybody. We were saying to some of their guys, 'Would you please miss one?'"

The Nuggets were no doubt thinking the same thing, but neither team cooperated. The second overtime ended at 171-171, and by that time, the scorer's table had run out of scoring sheets, and many in the announced crowd of 9,655 had departed. The diehards who remained saw the Pistons build a five-point lead and finally hang on to win by two.

"I was so tired when it ended," Vandeweghe says. "For two weeks after that game, both teams went into a slump. Everybody was worn out. I just went home that night and crawled into bed. I didn't even have anything to eat."

"It was strange, but eating was what I thought about most during the game," says a chuckling Tripucka. "I was wondering if there was gonna be any place open by the time we were done."

The game lasted three hours, 11 minutes, and featured 251 shots from the field and 117 from the line. Incredibly, only two three-point shots were made.

"It was an unbelievable game," says Tripucka, "but it would be so much bigger if it happened today because of the marketing and all the attention the NBA gets."

When the game ended, the players say, it did so anticlimactically. There was no appreciation of the historic moment, just a lot of slumped shoulders and dragging feet. If Hollywood ever makes a movie about that night in Denver, though, you can be sure the final scene will unfold far more dramatically. Picture it: The overworked scoreboard explodes, and the players run for the safety of the dressing rooms while a shower of sparks rains down around them like fireworks. ★

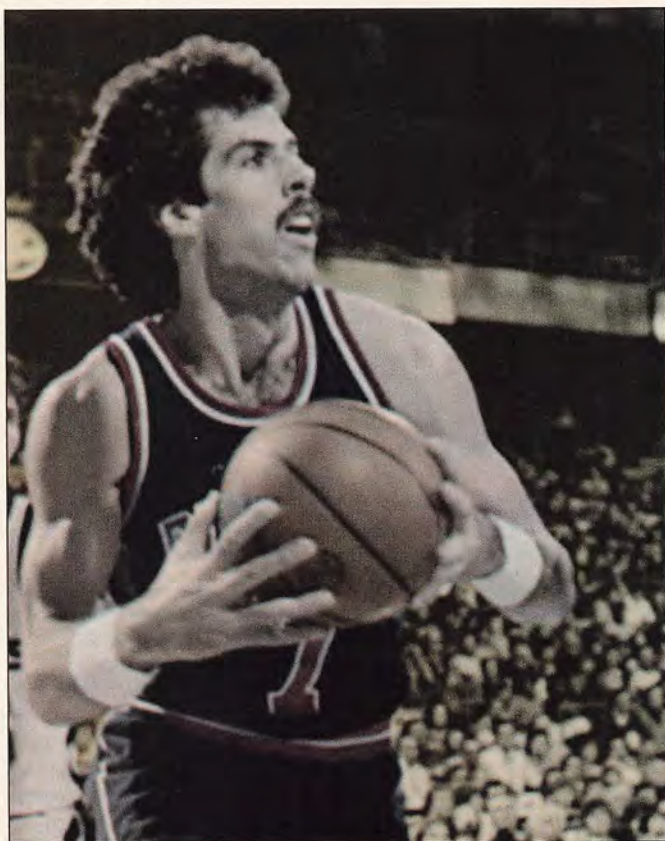
Jeff Ryan is a New York -based free-lance writer.

"I kept thinking we should all agree that the first team to 200 wins," says the Pistons' Kelly Tripucka, who pitched in 35.

1983 DETROIT VS. DENVER



SPORT ARCHIVE



Spring Training

AS MAJOR-LEAGUE
TEAMS REPORT TO
CAMP, SPORT ASKS
THE BURNING
QUESTIONS WAITING
TO BE ANSWERED
BY RICK WEINBERG

Will Mitch Williams recover from his World Series catastrophe?

Definitely—and he would've done it in Philadelphia if management had given him a chance.

But while the Phillies made it easier on themselves, their fans, their city and probably Williams himself by dealing *The Wild Thing* to the Houston Astros, keep this in mind: Mitch Williams is one mentally tough dude with a great perspective, and he *will* recover.

He'll recover because it was his tired arm, not his head, that resulted in his blowing that 14-10 lead in Game 4 and then serving up Joe Carter's World Series-winning three-run homer in Game 6.

"Williams was throwing about 85-86 [miles per hour]," claims a National League scout. "His arm was shot."

All those innings—all those 3-2 counts—took their toll, and Williams, who's never turned down a request to pitch, no matter what the circumstances, lost about seven miles per hour off his heater. And as we know, there aren't many major-league hitters who can't hammer 86-mph fastballs 425 feet. That includes Carter.

But Williams has never lived and died with a pitch or a performance. Never will either. "As a closer, you've got to be able to forget what happened the day before," he once said. "You have to. Otherwise, you just can't handle this role."

So the pitch Carter sent into orbit will not send Williams down the road the late

Donnie Moore once traveled. "I can handle this," Williams says. He told his teammates so right after Carter's homer landed. He told them that he'd want to be the one to shoulder the burden rather than a teammate.

He'll handle it because he's a flake, a good one, but also because he's never taken this game too seriously. "It was just a ballgame," he says. "No one died."

The worst thing about the conclusion to *The Wild Thing's* season is that few will remember that he was one of the primary reasons the Phillies were in the World Series in the first place, having saved 43 games. He was on the mound when the Phils pulled off the upset of the season, eliminating the Braves. But few will remember. All they'll recall is the pitch to Carter.

And that ain't fair.

What calamities will befall the Mets this year?

Whatever happens, topping the Nightmare of '93 would be quite a feat. Can you believe what transpired in Metsville last year?

"It was the worst season imaginable," says Mets pitcher Doc Gooden.

It was a big fat carnival that made the Yankees of the '70s look tame. "A circus," says Bret Saberhagen, one of the clowns in this disgraceful act of insanity and immaturity.

The ringmaster of the circus was Bob-bonilla, the \$29 million disappoint-

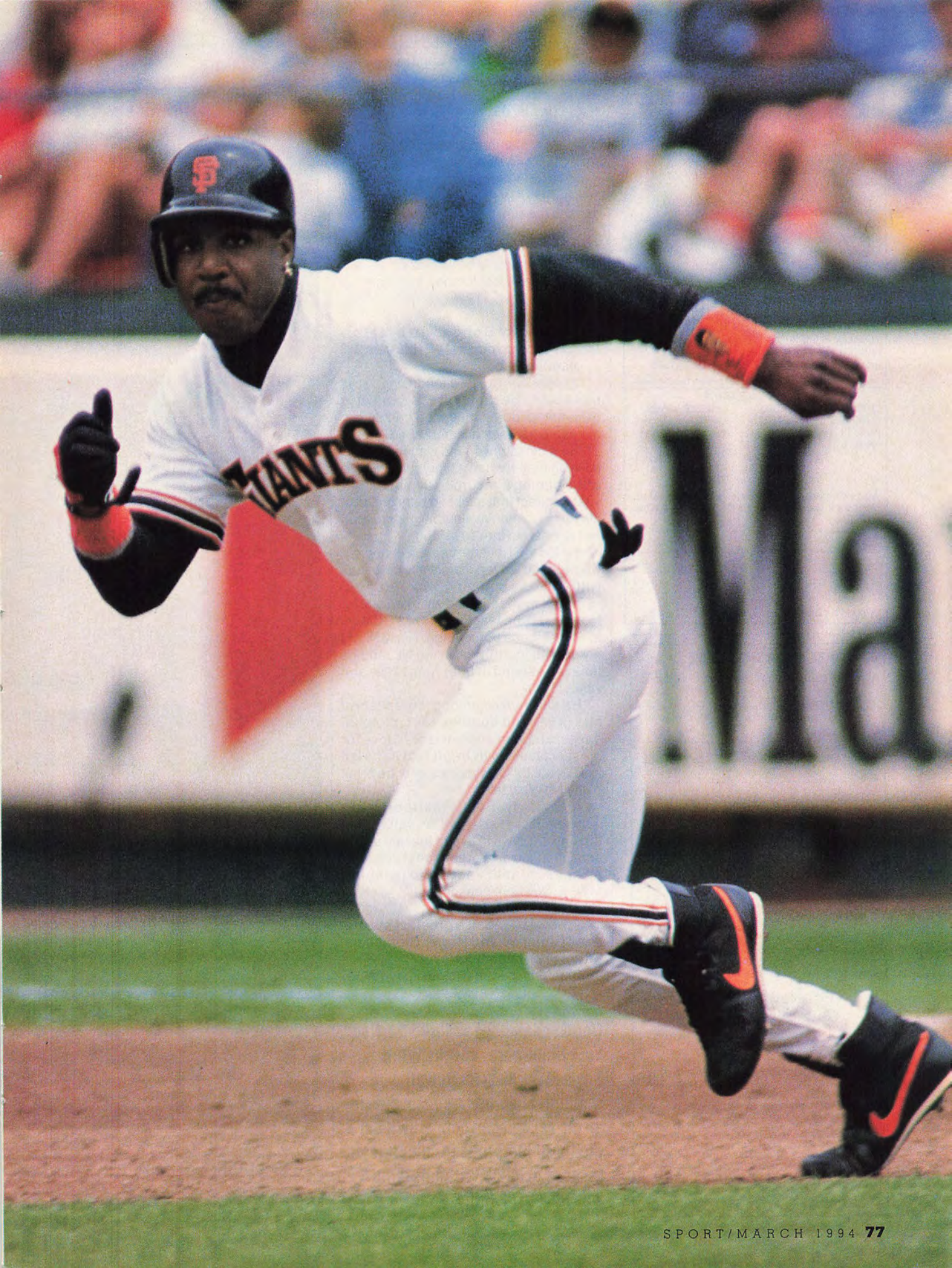
ment. Bonilla opened the season by threatening Bob Klapisch, co-author of *The Worst Team Money Could Buy*, the story of the Mets' 1992 season, which was actually better than last year's 59-103 disaster that saw the Mets finish five games behind the expansion Florida Marlins. "I'll hurt you," Bonilla told Klapisch. "I'll show you the Bronx." Bobby Bo, booed every time he stuck his mug out of the dugout and every time he swung and missed, followed that act by getting into a vicious argument on the field with coach Mike Cuddage after being accused of dogging it on the bases.

Then there was Saberhagen, who sprayed bleach on a group of reporters and vehemently denied it for weeks before finally confessing under pressure.

But of course the dopest clown in the circus was Vince Coleman, who first decided to practice his golf swing with a nine-iron in the clubhouse 40 minutes before a game and struck Gooden in the shoulder, forcing Gooden to miss his start. The shenanigans reached absurd proportions when Coleman tossed an M-100 firecracker in the parking lot at Dodger Stadium, injuring a child. He was charged with a felony and suspended from the club.

Mets president Fred Wilpon, who hadn't been given a reason to address his team in 14 years, decided to put an end to the nonsense once and for all, announcing that Coleman would never again wear a Mets uniform and that nei-

RON VESSELY



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ther would anyone else who misbehaved.

Throughout all the insanity stood Anthony Young, an unwilling symbol of the Mets' pathetic plight. He lost his first 13 decisions in '93, giving him a 27-game losing streak dating back to '92, which erased a major-league record for pitching futility that had stood for 82 years.

"I've never dreamed a season could be so crazy," says Howard Johnson, who jumped the sinking ship by signing a free-agent contract in the off-season with the Colorado Rockies. "It's just not possible that a season could be as crazy."

Not so fast. Remember, these are the Mets.

Will Barry Bonds win a major-league-record fourth MVP this year?

He intends to.

"I really want to get a fourth one," says baseball's best player. "I've always dreamed of doing things no one else in the game has ever accomplished."

He's certainly on his way to accomplishing that. He had a storybook season after signing a record \$49 million, six-year contract that might've buried a lot of players under an avalanche of pressure. Not Bonds. He thrived.

He led the National League in homers with 46, and led the majors in total bases with 365 and slugging percentage at .677, the highest in the NL in 45 years. He also led the league with 123 RBI and a .458 on-base percentage. His .336 average was fourth-best in the NL, and he finished second in both runs (129) and walks (126).

He also ranked among the leaders in hits (181) and doubles (38), stole 29 bases, and won another Gold Glove for his spectacular play in left field as he led the Giants to 103 victories and the brink of the NL West title.

Amazingly, Bonds' extraordinary numbers last year would've copped him the Triple Crown in five of the last seven seasons. "It was a great, great season," he says, "but I'm not done [winning MVPs]. Nowhere near done."

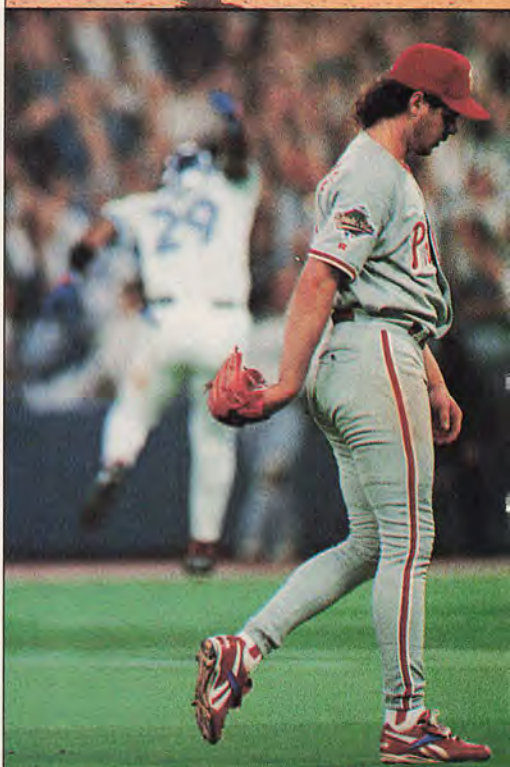
Will two of baseball's greatest stars—Jose Canseco and Roger Clemens—return to dominant form?

Clemens, baseball's best pitcher be-

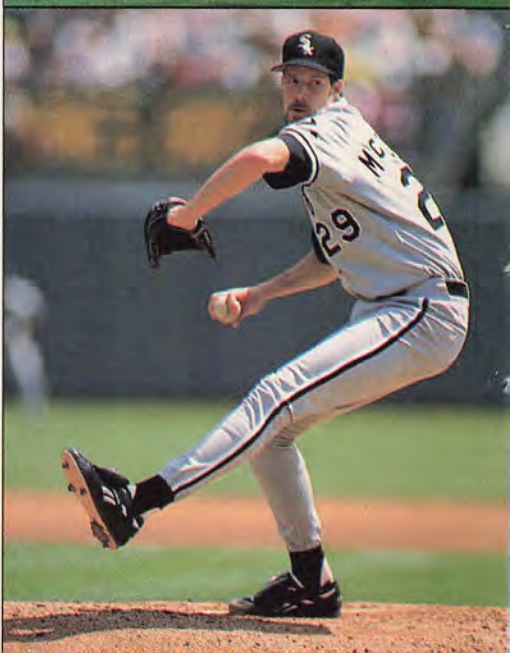
Doc Gooden (top) endured the New York Nightmare, and the White Sox's Black Jack McDowell (bottom) absorbed a concussion in an off-season barroom brawl, but their problems pale in comparison to those of Mitch Williams, who was run out of Philly.



BOB ROSATO



RON VESELY



RON VESELY



fore last season, suffered through the most miserable year of his Hall of Fame career.

After averaging 19 wins, a 2.65 ERA and 240 strikeouts over the previous seven seasons—including a 24-4 record in '86, 291 K's in '88, and a 1.93 ERA in '90—Clemens went 11-14 last season with a 4.46 ERA.

What happened? Shoulder problem? Elbow? Fatigue?

None of the above.

"His location was off, that's all," says Boston Red Sox manager Butch Hobson. "He had the same velocity on his fastball. He just wasn't putting it in the right spot, and if you don't put a fastball in the right spot to major-league hitters, they're gonna hit you."

The location of Clemens' wicked forkball was off as well. "But it's nothing that can't be fixed," says Hobson. "Roger'll be back. Mark my words. He'll be back."

Clemens has, however, logged a lot of mileage on his arm, so don't expect any more 140-pitch performances. "They'd be crazy to do that anymore," says one AL pitching coach. "If I were them, I'd be yanking him after seven innings."

As for Canseco, who suffered a season-ending elbow injury during a mop-up pitching-appearance fiasco in May, it looks like he'll be a lifetime designated hitter. But a hell of a DH at that.

"He loves DHing," says Jeff Borris of Dennis Gilbert's Beverly Hills Sports Council, which represents Canseco. "Some guys need to be in the game to perform. Not Jose. By DHing, there's less wear and tear on his body. He's a better hitter as a DH."

How good is the Indians' everyday lineup?

Fabulous.

And most fans aren't familiar with the newest member of this awesome lineup, outfielder Manny Ramirez, *Baseball America's* Player of the Year, who hit 33 homers and drove in 120 runs for the Indians and their Triple-A and Double-A affiliates last year.

With incredible young talent such as Carlos Baerga (.321, 21 HR, 114 RBI), Kenny Lofton (.325, 70 stolen bases), Albert Belle (38 HR, 129 RBI), Mark Lewis, Jim Thome, Sandy Alomar Jr., Ramirez and veteran newcomer Eddie Murray, the Indians, pennantless for 39 years, are the team of the future.

The Indians suffered a supreme tragedy last season, but with youngsters such as Sandy Alomar Jr. in the lineup, a brighter future is guaranteed.

OTTO GREULE/SPORT

"There's not a better everyday young lineup than Cleveland's," says Detroit Tigers manager Sparky Anderson. "They're gonna be something. A powerhouse."

If the Indians only had another solid starter behind Charles Nagy and off-season acquisition Dennis Martinez, and a dependable closer to replace the late Steve Olin, they could win the new American League Central as early as this season. It doesn't hurt that they're moving into a gorgeous new stadium, Cleveland's version of Camden Yards.

A new era of baseball is beginning in Cleveland. Enthusiasm will be overwhelming, fans will flock to the new stadium, and years of futility and embarrassment will begin to evaporate from memory.

Not even the thought of Bill Belichick will spoil this new era for Cleveland fans.

Did the Cubs blunder by firing Jim Lefebvre?

What? The Cubs fired Lefebvre? When?

You may have missed it because it happened sometime in between Michael Jordan's earth-shaking retirement announcement and the third inning of a White Sox playoff game.

Buried behind the Jordan news and the riveting feuds involving Gene Lamont, Bo Jackson and George Bell, the announcement of Lefebvre's dumping barely made the Chicago papers.

Did Lefebvre deserve to be fired?

Put it this way: The guy who fired Lefebvre, general manager Larry Himes, is the same guy who refused to re-sign Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux. If Himes had given Maddux what he wanted, the Cubs very well may have given the Phillies a run for the division title.

Himes incorrectly figured that Mike Morgan would step in as the Cubs' new ace. Morgan turned out to be no ace. He's a perfect No. 2 or No. 3 guy. Maddux, on the other hand, is the epitome of an ace, as he proved once again by going 20-10 with a league-leading 2.36 ERA for Atlanta and winning his second straight Cy Young Award.

Himes not only lost arguably baseball's best pitcher, but he warned Lefebvre that the Cubs had better be 10 games over .500 at the All-Star break, or else. Lefebvre really had no chance of keeping his job, and the amazing thing is that he guided the

Pitcher Roger Clemens' (top) problem was with his control, while Jose Canseco's (middle) problem was trying to pitch at all. Darryl Strawberry's problems are too many to count.



Maddux-less Cubs to 84 wins. And remember, Lefebvre didn't have Ryne Sandberg in April, didn't have Shawon Dunston until the last two weeks of the season, and Mike Harkey got hurt.

Tom Trebelhorn replaces Lefebvre. Trebelhorn's a good baseball man and a class guy. He treats his players like men and deals with the media well. But he'll be hard-pressed to do a better job than Lefebvre.

What reportedly cinched the job for Trebelhorn over closest candidate Tony Muser? As part of Himes' bizarre interview process, one of the questions asked was, "If you were a tree, what kind would you want to be?" Muser answered, "An oak tree." Trebelhorn responded, "A Cubs tree." He got the job.

Has Darryl Strawberry lost it—on and off the field?

Apparently so.

When asked about the fires that were ravaging Los Angeles in November, he joked, "Let it burn, I don't live there anymore."

Even if he didn't realize the severity of the fires at the time, he still shouldn't have made such a senseless, insensitive statement.

The comment on the fires came on the heels of a year in which the Straw Man: (1) was paid \$3.5 million, played in 32 games because of back problems, and hit .140 with five homers and 12 RBI, bringing his combined '92-'93 season totals to .199, 10 homers and 37 RBI; (2) befriended a homeless couple in L.A. and was then accused of assaulting one of them; (3) was fined a day's pay—about \$20,000—for showing up in the fourth inning of a day game because he thought the club was playing at night; (4) arrived late several times for his daily pregame two-hour therapy when he was still on the active list; (5) showed up late before a game in San Diego, was scratched from the lineup, and proceeded to smash the clubhouse water cooler and argue with general manager Fred Claire, who threatened to suspend his troubled outfielder; (6) was arrested for allegedly beating up his girlfriend, who refused to press charges.

Because Strawberry has repeatedly gone over the edge, he's worn out his welcome in his hometown of L.A., which is why he moved to Phoenix. He may have even worn out his welcome in the majors. He's as close to untradeable as a player can be. "No one wants him," says one NL general manager. "Particularly with that contract."

It's a toss-up as to who is more despised in his city of employment—Strawberry in L.A., Bonilla in New York or Belichick in Cleveland. Even many of Strawberry's teammates detest him and relish any winning streak put together without him.

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Strawberry has two years remaining on a five-year, \$20.25 million contract. He'll be paid \$3 million this season, \$5 million in '95. He's become as big a headache as George Steinbrenner and Marge Schott put together.

Will Strawberry ever be a productive everyday player again? One NL scout doubts it. "Strawberry will never be the player he once was. He babies his back and no longer swings aggressively."

If you were in a dark alley facing a gang of thugs, which ballclub would you want backing you up?

Not the White Sox—particularly if Jack McDowell and Robin Ventura were present.

Can either of these guys ever win a fight? Can either even land a punch? They're 0-for-3 in recent brawls.

Remember a few years back when McDowell drilled the Blue Jays' Mark Whiten, then froze on the mound before Whiten landed a right hook to his face? Next thing we knew, Black Jack had a black eye.

Remember Ventura getting plunked by Nolan Ryan last year and rushing the mound—something no one had done to the legendary Ryan in 13 years? Ventura

ended up getting punched in the head a few times.

Then this winter, McDowell suffered a concussion in a barroom brawl while hanging out with a member of the rock band Pearl Jam.

Funny, but all these years, McDowell has been perceived as a tough, mean guy, which is why he was nicknamed Black Jack. Perhaps writing sweet, passive love songs for his rock band has softened him up.

What's Ventura's excuse? Twenty years younger than Ryan, Ventura should have flattened the old-timer, but slick Nolan sidestepped his younger foe, got him into a headlock and gave him a noogy lesson he'll never forget. It was the epitome of embarrassment.

Is there another team besides the Indians that has great young talent?

The California Angels.

With Tim Salmon, Eduardo Perez, J.T. Snow, Damion Easley and Chad Curtis, the Angels are waist-deep in hot young stars.

"We've got a marketing man's dream team here," says Snow.

Salmon is the best of the bunch. Despite missing the final three weeks with a

broken finger, he slammed 31 homers and 35 doubles, hit .283, drove in 95 runs, and ran away with the AL Rookie of the Year Award.

Perez, son of Tony, knocked in 30 runs in 52 games after being recalled on July 26 from Triple-A, where he hit .306 with 12 homers and 70 RBI in 96 games. "He's gonna be a great one," says general manager Whitey Herzog. "A showstopper," says Angels manager Buck Rodgers.

Snow, a brilliant defensive first baseman with movie-star looks, had a bizarre year: He hit .343 with six homers, 17 RBI and 17 runs in the first 19 games, and .387 with four homers and 10 RBI in the final 18 games. But in between, he hit .184 and was benched and then demoted to Triple-A. "I plan on being more consistent, spreading my production over the course of the season," he says.

Easley batted .313 but was limited to 73 games because of shin problems. "We see him coming back strong," says Rodgers. "I believe he's got the capabilities of being one of our league's most exciting players."

Ditto for Curtis, who hit .285 and finished fifth in the AL in steals with 48. "Exciting?" Rodgers says of Curtis. "That's his middle name."★



WINTER OLYMPICS

WILL THE U.S. TURN IN A
DECENT SHOWING THIS TIME?
BY DAVE NIGHTINGALE

What awaits the 2,700 athletes Feb. 12-17 who'll wind their way 105 miles north of Oslo, Norway, to Lillehammer to take part in the Winter Olympics? How about these tidbits of town trivia:

- It's the only town in the world with skis on the city coat of arms.
- It's the birthplace of Thor Bjorkland, inventor of the cheese slicer.
- It's the starting point for the annual "Birkebeiner" cross-country ski race, which commemorates an event in the year 1205 when patriots wrapped their feet in birchbark, rescued child king Haakon Haakonson from evil clutches, and lugged him 56 kilometers across the mountains to safety.
- It'll be overrun with security forces due to terrorist threats because of Norway's role in the secret Israeli-PLO peace talks and threats from environmentalists to stain the snow with whale blood in protest of the country's unrestricted commercial whaling practices.
- It's the home of countless trolls, the supernatural Scandinavian version of leprechauns, according to 18th-century storyteller Peer Gynt.

The Olympics have caused one unusual problem for this tiny town of 23,000: Souvenir hunters have been stealing Lillehammer manhole covers because they're emblazoned with the five-ring Olympic symbol. Former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka used to claim that the late George Halas was so tight with money that he "tossed around nickels as if they were manhole covers."

Could Halas' ghost currently be masquerading as a Lillehammer troll?

DAVE BLACK



WINTER OLYMPICS

HOCKEY ANY HOCKEY HOPES ARE PUCKISH

Team USA's 15-1 victory over "Russia" last September in the Alaska Arctic Challenge hockey tournament raised two questions: Should we expect another Olympic "Miracle on Ice" (as at Lake Placid, 1980) when the Americans suit up for the Lillehammer Games? Or was there a "truth in labeling" problem at the Alaska tourney?

Take a wild guess.

The Russian team in Anchorage may have been The Little Sisters of Sverdlosk. "Either that or the Siberian national team, because Siberia is where you'll find those guys today," one USA Hockey official says.

The 1994 U.S. Olympians probably

more closely will emulate the 1992 team, which finished fourth. The key to any medal hopes is to beat either Canada or Sweden in preliminary pool play. That should enable the Americans to avoid both the real Russia and the Czechs until the semifinals. Head coach Tim Taylor (Yale) says the U.S. will field an entertaining team, long on speed ("we built around that"), short on experience (average age 22 years, 3 months).

Defensive cornerstones are goaltender Mike Dunham, the backup to Ray LeBlanc at Albertville in '92, and 1988 Olympian Peter Laviolette. Team USA got an offensive injection in January when joined by forwards Ted Drury (Calgary, NHL) and Pete Ciavaglia (Swedish league), who took six-week leave of absences from their pro jobs.

BOBSLED/LUGE NEW CAST FOR SLEDDING STAR WARS

In the past, the United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation was aptly named because it had as many skeletons as bobsleds in its closet. But it survived cash shortages, mismanagement and legal challenges by athletes who wanted a Bo Jackson/Deion Sanders two-sport marketing ploy. And now it's ready to roll at Lillehammer instead of just shake and rattle.

The federation's "franchise" driver is Brian Shimer, who will win the first U.S. Olympic sledding medal in 38 years—maybe two of them. Shimer won the 1992-93 regular-season World Cup points title on

P. RONDEAU/ALLSPORT



Brian Shimer and the U.S. bobsled team aim for gold.

the four-man circuit, after acquiring Elvis look-alike coach Meinhard Nehmer, a three-time gold medalist for East Germany, and after shedding such dilettante passengers as Herschel Walker, Willie Gault and Edwin Moses. It was a measure of his success that stories described his third-place finish at the World Championships as "disappointing."

Shimer was third in last season's two-man world rankings, but he has swapped his \$20,000 sled for a \$130,000 high-tech model designed and financed by philanthropic NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine, and already he's broken the Lillehammer course record with it.

Shimer's main Olympic competition will come from Switzerland's Gustav Weder (pronounced Vay-der). Can you guess the Swiss driver's nickname?

Let's see: NASCAR vs. Darth. Star Wars II.

WOMEN'S SPEEDSKATING OUR BONNIE—THE QUEEN OF MEAN?

Just because she has a squeaky voice, an ever-present smile, and hails from the rural American heartland doesn't mean U.S.



Speedskater Bonnie Blair has contempt for rival Ye Qiaobo.

Olympic speedskating queen Bonnie Blair is all sweetness and light. Her teammates will tell you of her competitive tenacity. She herself will tell you of her intense dislike for Ye Qiaobo, her top international rival. You can bet she didn't send Ye a candygram after learning of Qiaobo's knee surgery last September, an operation that won't enhance the Chinese woman's chances against Blair at Lillehammer.

When Blair wins those 500- and 1,000-meter races at Hamar Olympic Hall, she'll become the first woman to capture gold medals in three consecutive Winter Games since Norwegian figure skater Sonja Henie accomplished the hat trick in 1928, 1932 and 1936. Blair won the 500 at Calgary in 1988, then beat Qiaobo in both the 500 and 1,000 at Albertville in 1992.

Qiaobo didn't get to Calgary, having been suspended for failing a drug test—and that still draws Blair's scorn. To this day, Ye insists she swallowed only an "herb-and-flower-petal" concoction prescribed by a team doctor in 1988. Blair thinks the petals were from the "steroidus skatefasterus" flower.

"Let's just say there have been chemicals in her body that you'd never find in mine," Blair says.

ICE DANCING DIRTY DANCING REDUX

Mark the evening of Monday, Feb. 21, on your calendar. That's the night of commercial TV's officially sanctioned soft-core porn show of the quadrennium.

No, it's not some adaptation of a Harold Robbins classic. It's just the finals of the Olympic ice dance competition.

Remember the gold medal effort of Great Britain's Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean at the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics that received perfect scores from the judges? Their routine was performed to Ravel's "Bolero." It was only slightly less steamy than Bo Derek and Dudley Moore's performance to the same music—but on a different playing surface—in the moving "10."

Sex has played a role in ice dance judging ever since. At Albertville in 1992, for instance, Russian winners Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko concluded their routine with a very passionate embrace. Runners-up Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay of France didn't have equal opportunity. Ponomarenko and Klimova are husband and wife; the Duchesnays are brother and sister. Torvill and Dean, at 36 and 35, respectively, return to the Olympic scene at Lillehammer after a 10-year absence.

Will they be as sexy as favorites Maia Usova and Alexandr Zhulin of Russia, the 1992 bronze medalists? Stay tuned for every breathless minute.

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Torvill and Dean's sexy 1984 ice dancing effort altered the sport.

SHORT-TRACK SPEEDSKATING TWO SYSTEMATIC APPROACHES TO GOLD

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and East Germany, national athletic "systems" became passe. But there'll always be a China, and a Beijing-prescribed regimen will be put to the test in women's Olympic short-track speedskating.

At Albertville in 1992, American night-club singer Cathy Turner ended a 10-year retirement from skating by capturing a surprise gold medal in the short-track 500-meter event, even though her skates nearly fell apart at the finish line. Favored Zhang Yanmei of China was disqualified in the quarterfinals.

Turner has enjoyed the fruits of her victory over the last two years. She performed in the Ice Capades as a singer and skater, opened her own fitness center, won a major wa-

ter-skiing competition, appeared on the "American Gladiators" TV show, and was a State Dinner guest at the White House. She did not skate competitively last season.

Zhang went back to China. She did not make fitness videos or dine with the premier. But practice, practice, practice led to a gold medal in the 500 at the 1993 World Championships.

The Turner-Zhang Olympic rematch is scheduled for Feb. 24 at the Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre, near Lillehammer. May the better system win.

FIGURE SKATING WILL ANYONE RULE BOITANO?

First tennis, then basketball allowed pros into the Olympics. Now, in figure skating, the "Boitano Rule" will be in effect at Lillehammer. But there's no guarantee America's Brian Boitano *will* rule.

In June 1992, the International Skating Union made this concession to a Boitano-led campaign: A pro can receive one-time amateur reinstatement in order to compete in the Games.

So past gold medalists Boitano, Viktor Petrenko (Ukraine), Katarina Witt (Germany), ice dancers Torvill and Dean, and Russian tandems Natalia Mishkutenok/Arthur Dimitriev and Ekaterina Gordeeva/Sergei Grinkov are seeking another Olympic hurrah.

Boitano has technical superiority among the men, but a chronic knee injury will make it difficult for him to main-

tain an "amateur" routine that virtually demands eight triple jumps. Probable winner: four-time world amateur champ Kurt Browning of Canada.

Boitano insists that the beautiful Witt, his ice show partner, has another great chance for gold. But Katarina, who can't do triples, couldn't win unless this became a swimsuit competition.

Top distaff contenders all have faults. Ukrainian world champ Oksana Baiul doesn't do combo jumps. France's leaping Surya Bonaly spends more time airborne (or on her butt) than on skates; judges hate her routine. America's Nancy Kerrigan has style and athleticism and could win if she doesn't choke, as she did in the '93 Worlds.

ALPINE SKIING HELP FROM ABOVE

American Alpine skier Julie Parisien says she'll still have a co-pilot sitting figuratively on her shoulder when she negotiates the Olympic slalom slopes of Lillehammer's Hafjell mountain this month: the vision of her late brother Jean-Paul, long her motivator on the road to greatness.

Two years ago, Julie defined tragedy in terms of athletic failure. She was the leader after the first heat of the slalom at the Albertville Games, but a tentative second run knocked her off the medals platform by five-hundredths of a second. It had been life's most painful moment. "Forget it," her brother advised. "Just win the 1993 World Championships for me to make up for it."

But 10 months after the '92 Olympics, Jean-Paul died, the victim of a hit-and-run driver on a Maine highway. Julie was crushed, but less than two months later, she finished second in slalom competition at the World Championships in Shizukuishi, Japan. She wasn't satisfied. "I wanted to win a gold medal for J.P., not a silver," she said. "And I know he's up there saying, 'C'mon, you can do better than that.'"

The quest intensifies at Lillehammer. Switzerland's Vreni Schneider, New Zealand's Annelise Coberger, Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg, et al., have been warned.

U.S. GOLD IT'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TIME

American men finally will be able to strut a bit after a Winter Olympics. At Lillehammer, U.S. male athletes will win two or more individual gold medals



The "Boitano Rule" will go into effect: Pro skaters can compete.

OLYMPIC MEDAL PREDICTIONS

FIGURE SKATING

Men—Kurt Browning, Canada
 Women—Oksana Baiul, Ukraine
 Pairs—Natalia Mishkuteniok/Arthur Dimitriev, Russia
 Dance—Maia Usova/Alexandr Zhulin, Russia

HOCKEY

Team—Russia

SPEED (LONG TRACK)

Men's 500m—**Dan Jansen, USA**
 Men's 1,000—Igor Zhelezovski, Belarus
 Men's 1,500—Rintje Ritsma, Netherlands
 Men's 5,000—Johann-Olav Koss, Norway
 Men's 10,000—Bart Veldkamp, Netherlands
 Women's 500—**Bonnie Blair, USA**
 Women's 1,000—**Bonnie Blair, USA**
 Women's 1,500—Gunda Niemann, Germany
 Women's 3,000—Gunda Niemann, Germany
 Women's 5,000—Gunda Niemann, Germany

SPEED (SHORT TRACK)

Men's 500—Zmirko Vuillermin, Italy
 Men's 1,000—Marc Gagnon, Canada
 Men's 5,000 Relay—New Zealand
 Women's 500—Zhang Yanmei, China
 Women's 1,000—Nathalie Lambert, Canada
 Women's 3,000 Relay—Canada

SKIING

ALPINE

Men's Downhill—Atle Skaardal, Norway
 Men's Slalom—Alberto Tomba, Italy
 Men's Giant Slalom—Kjetil Aamodt, Norway
 Men's Super G—Kjetil Aamodt, Norway
 Men's Combined—Marc Girardelli, Luxembourg
 Women's Downhill—Katja Seizinger, Germany
 Women's Slalom—Vreni Schneider, Switzerland
 Women's Giant Slalom—Anita Wachter, Austria

Women's Super G—Katja Seizinger, Germany

Women's Combined—Anita Wachter, Austria

BIATHLON

Men's 10 km—Mark Kirchner, Germany
 Men's 20 km—Ludwig Gredler, Austria
 Men's 30 km Relay—Germany
 Women's 7.5 km—Anfisa Restzova, Russia
 Women's 15 km—Myriam Bedard, Canada
 Women's 30 km Relay—Germany

CROSS-COUNTRY

Men's 10 km Classic—Vladimir Smirnov, Kazakhstan
 Men's 15 km Free Pursuit—Bjorn Daehlie, Norway
 Men's 40 km Relay—Norway
 Women's 5 km Classic—Elena Valbe, Russia
 Women's 10 km Free Pursuit—Lyubov Egorova, Russia
 Women's 15 km Freestyle—Stefania Belmondo, Italy
 Women's 30 km Classic—Elena Valbe, Russia
 Women's 20 km Relay—Russia

FREESTYLE

Men's Moguls—Edgar Grosperon, France
 Men's Aerials—**Trace Worthington, USA**
 Women's Moguls—**Donna Weinbrecht, USA**

Women's Aerials—Lina Cherjazova, Uzbekistan

JUMPING

90m Hill—Andreas Goldberger, Austria
 120m Hill—Espen Bredeson, Norway
 Team 120m Hill—Austria

NORDIC COMBINED

Individual—Kenji Ogiwara, Japan
 Team—Norway

SLEDDING

BOBSLED

2-Man—Italy No. 1 (Gunther Huber)
 4-Man—Switzerland No. 1 (Gustav Weder)

LUGE

Men's Singles—Markus Prock, Austria
 Men's Doubles—Stefan Krausse-Jan Behrendt, Germany
 Women's Singles—Doris Neuner, Austria

in the same Olympics for the first time in 10 years, the second time in 40 years.

Speedskater Dan Jansen is a big favorite (in the 500 meters), as is freestyle skier Trace Worthington, a two-time World Cup champ in aerials whose specialty is now an official Olympic sport.

Figure skater Brian Boitano, the only U.S. man to win gold since 1984, and downhill skier AJ Kitt also could prevail, but both are underdogs. Kitt can't handle technical courses designed by Bernard Russi, witness AJ's ninth-place Olympic finish in 1992 at "Face de Bellevard" and his 29th-place 1993 World Cup effort at Lillehammer's Kvitfjell.

Jansen will draw the most attention, since he was a beaten favorite at both Calgary and Albertville. He had an excuse in 1988, skating (and falling) in the 500 only hours after his sister had died of leukemia. He had no excuse in 1992, finishing a dismal fourth behind Germany's Uwe-Jens Mey.

An early tipoff on Jansen's chances: If he doesn't skate the first 100 meters in 9.6 or 9.7 seconds, he won't win. ★



Though an underdog, downhill skier AJ Kitt has a shot at gold.

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SPORT QUIZ



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12-13 correct: Sports genius
9-11 correct: Good fan
6-8 correct: Working too hard
3-5 correct: To the showers
0-2 correct: Try knitting
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you a SPORT pin pictured here if you send us the correct answer to the SPORT Stumper given below. Send only your name, address and age to SPORT Quiz, 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048. Limit one per person, and all entries must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 1994.

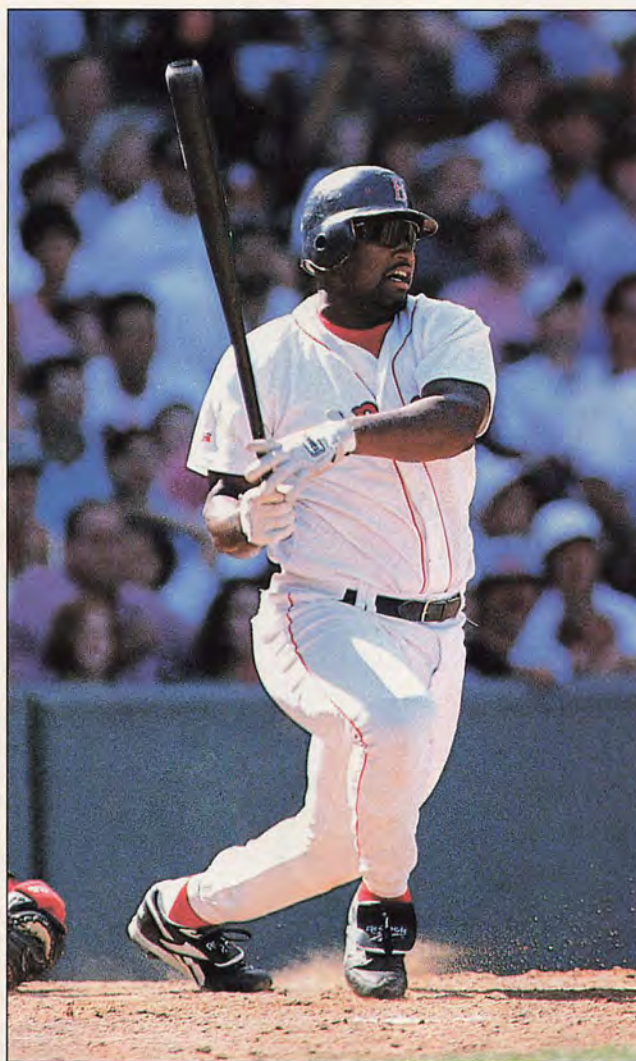
1 In 1993, this major-leaguer (pictured) led the Boston Red Sox in home runs and RBI. Name him.

2 Name the first manager to guide the Seattle Mariners to a .500 record.

3 True or false: Second baseman Delino DeShields once led the National League in strikeouts.

4 Who was the last member of the Cleveland Indians to lead the American League in stolen bases?
A. Joe Carter
B. Brett Butler
C. Kenny Lofton
D. Carlos Baerga

5 Last season, only one member of the New York Knicks played in all 82 games. Name him.



BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN

B. Bo Kimble
C. Kevin Houston
D. Hersey Hawkins

10 Which NHL goaltender made the most All-Star appearances?

A. Glenn Hall
B. Grant Fuhr
C. Tony Esposito
D. Jacques Plante

11 Name the NHL player who has the most power-play goals in All-Star Game history.

12 Who was the MVP of the 1993 NFL Pro Bowl?

A. Michael Irvin
B. Steve Tasker
C. Jim Kelly
D. Troy Aikman

13 In 1968, whom did Jimmy Ellis defeat to win the vacant WBA heavyweight title?

A. Joe Frazier
B. Jerry Quarry
C. Muhammad Ali
D. Oscar Bonavena
—William Ladson

STUMPER

Name the only man to win Olympic gold medals in both sprints and hurdles.

FEBRUARY 1993 STUMPER ANSWER

Peter Ueberroth ("Name the organizer of the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.")

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Mo Vaughn 2. Jim LeFebvre (1991) 3. True 4. C (1993) 5. Charles Oakley 6. B 7. B 8. Tom Gugliotta 9. D 10. A (13) 11. Gordie Howe (six) 12. B 13. B

6 Which was the first franchise to win an NBA title in each of its first three trips to the finals?

A. Celtics
B. Lakers
C. Pistons
D. Bulls

7 NBA head coach Quinn Buckner was drafted by which NFL team?

A. Dallas
B. Washington
C. Denver
D. Buffalo

8 Name the only NBA rookie to post a triple-double last season.

9 In 1988, which college basketball player led Division I in scoring?
A. Kevin Bradshaw




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PICKING AN AGENT



ILLUSTRATION: BOB BOWERS

A PRACTICAL 10-POINT PLAN FOR COLLEGIATE PLAYERS WITH BIG HEADS ASPIRATIONS/BY MEL LEVINE

A college athlete's selection of an agent can be of critical importance to both on- and off-field success. As a former sports agent who specialized in collegiate recruiting, I've compiled a 10-point plan covering things you might not have found in the NCAA handbook. In this money-conscious world, true amateur athletics is an outdated concept. Hey, Michael Jordan played in the 1992 Olympics. Where's the amateur concept in that?

- 1 Ask the prospective agent for a recent *audited* copy of his financial statement. Recruiting is big business, and if an agent is interested in you, he better have big dollars. Talent doesn't come cheap.
- 2 Request the agent's latest credit report. A long, protracted professional contract holdout could become a serious drain on an agent's liquidity. If he doesn't have great credit, how can he borrow on your behalf?
- 3 Quiz your agent on his knowledge of luxury foreign automobiles. If he can't speak Lexus or Mercedes, question his ability to understand your needs. As part of the quiz, determine what he knows about car stereos, gold-plated custom wheels and cellular telephones. Make sure he has a beeper, just in case you should need something at any hour of the day.
- 4 Ascertain the agent's knowledge of drug rehabilitation clinics and Gambler's Anonymous. How many of his clients have been recently admitted? Does he have the home phone numbers of Steve Howe, Dexter Manley, Michael Jordan or Pete Rose (two or more is a passing grade)?
- 5 Does your agent make a fashion statement? Does he present the image you're looking for? Knowing that your contract negotiations will be covered at least in part by television, do you approve of the type of diamond earrings and gold bracelets he wears? Make sure he doesn't clash with your look, which could diminish your marketability.
- 6 Does your agent have access to criminal attorneys at discount rates? Be smart. Why wait until you've been accused of drug possession or a rape or assault? Does he know that cocaine stays in your blood for 72 hours, while marijuana can be detected in your system for six weeks? At the very least, your agent should be familiar with all legal defenses for DUI allegations.
- 7 Ask to see copies of term papers your agent wrote in college. Perhaps he can give them to you in an effort to ease your school work load and allow you to focus more on sports. If he wrote term papers for others while in college, give him bonus points.
- 8 Does your agent have real-estate contacts around the country? This would prove invaluable since you're likely to relocate frequently due to free agency.
- 9 Does your agent have any experience with child services? Two or more of your kids will have to be in day-care while you're out of town (or out on the town). You can't always expect your mother or ex-girlfriend to watch them.
- 10 Most important: Does your mother like the agent? If she dislikes the agent (knowing that Mom is at the center of your universe), look elsewhere. Don't alienate the person who got you this far. ★

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SPORT MAIL

(Continued from page 6)

basketball at all. Both players were All-Americans and both will be huge stars in the NBA. But in my opinion, Orlando got the best deal by far. Orlando got Penny, the better overall player, and three first-round draft picks [beginning in '96]. When Penny wins Rookie of the Year honors, I hope the unenlightened fans who booed Hardaway will change their tune. By the way, Penny outscored, outassisted and outplayed Webber in the game.

Tod Palmer
Kansas City, Missouri

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Jonathan Greene
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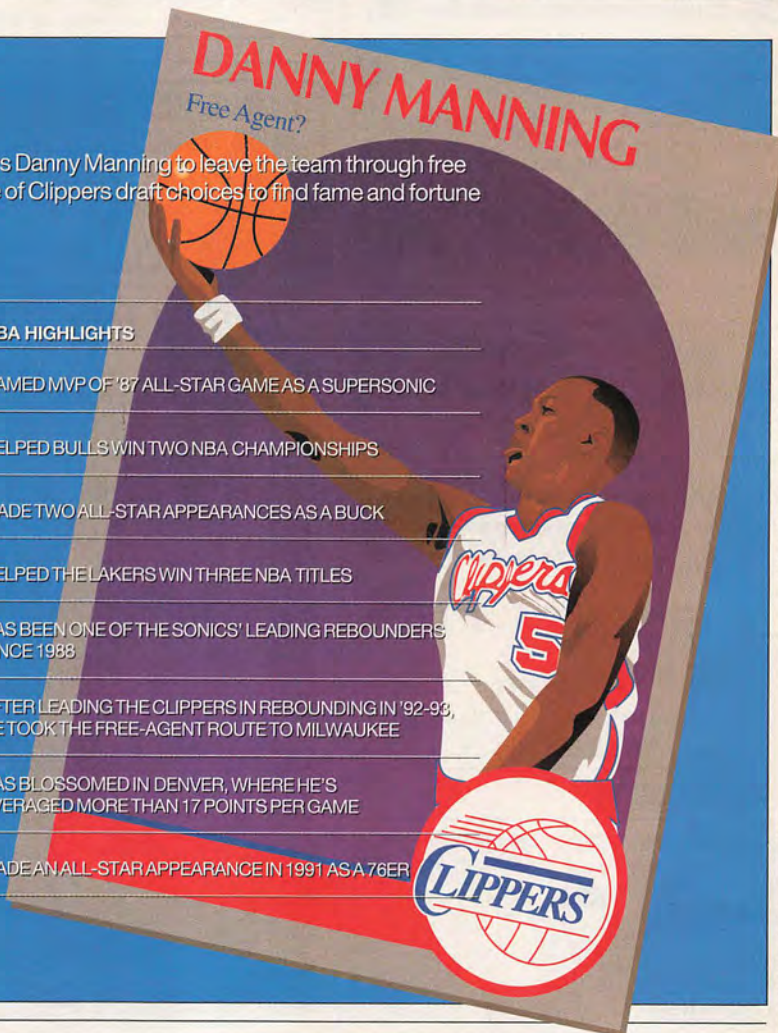
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CLIPPING THEIR WINGS

If Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling allows Danny Manning to leave the team through free agency, Manning will likely be the latest in a long line of Clippers draft choices to find fame and fortune in another NBA city.

YEAR DRAFTED	PLAYER	CAREER SCORING AVG.	NBA HIGHLIGHTS
1981	TOM CHAMBERS	20.0	NAMED MVP OF '87 ALL-STAR GAME AS A SUPERSONIC
1982	CRAIG HODGES	8.5	HELPED BULLS WIN TWO NBA CHAMPIONSHIPS
1982	TERRY CUMMINGS	21.1	MADE TWO ALL-STAR APPEARANCES AS A BUCK
1983	BYRON SCOTT	16.0	HELPED THE LAKERS WIN THREE NBA TITLES
1984	MICHAEL CAGE	9.4	HAS BEEN ONE OF THE SONICS' LEADING REBOUNDERS SINCE 1988
1987	KEN NORMAN	14.7	AFTER LEADING THE CLIPPERS IN REBOUNDING IN '92-'93, HE TOOK THE FREE-AGENT ROUTE TO MILWAUKEE
1987	REGGIE WILLIAMS	13.6	HAS BLOSSOMED IN DENVER, WHERE HE'S AVERAGED MORE THAN 17 POINTS PER GAME
1988	HERSEY HAWKINS	19.0	MADE AN ALL-STAR APPEARANCE IN 1991 AS A 76ER

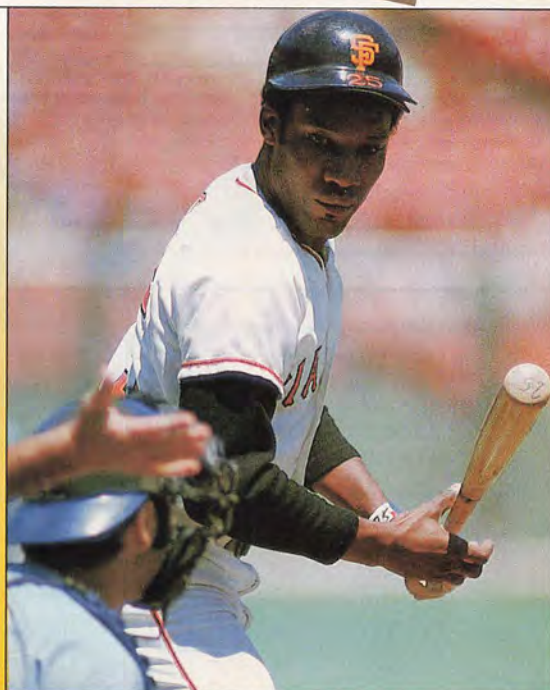


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The list below shows that since 1969, 16 major-leaguers have managed to hit .300 while striking out at least 120 times.

YEAR	PLAYER	AT-BATS	BATTING AVERAGE	STRIKE-OUTS
1969	WILLIE STARGELL, PIRATES	522	.307	120
1970	CITO GASTON, PADRES	584	.318	142
1970	TONY PEREZ, REDS	587	.317	134
1970	BOBBY BONDS, GIANTS (pictured)	663	.302	189
1972	DICK ALLEN, WHITE SOX	506	.308	126
1975	JIM RICE, RED SOX	564	.309	122
1977	RON LEFLORE, TIGERS	652	.325	121
1977	JIM RICE, RED SOX	644	.320	120
1977	GREG LUZINSKI, PHILLIES	554	.309	140
1978	JIM RICE, RED SOX	677	.315	126
1984	MIKE EASLER, RED SOX	601	.313	134
1984	JEFF LEONARD, GIANTS	514	.302	123
1986	PHIL BRADLEY, MARINERS	526	.310	134
1987	DANNY TARTABULL, ROYALS	582	.309	136
1987	ANDRES GALARRAGA, EXPOS	551	.305	127
1988	JOSE CANSECO, A'S	610	.307	128
1988	ANDRES GALARRAGA, EXPOS	609	.302	153
1993	JAY BELL, PIRATES	604	.310	122
1993	TRAVIS FRYMAN, TIGERS	607	.300	128

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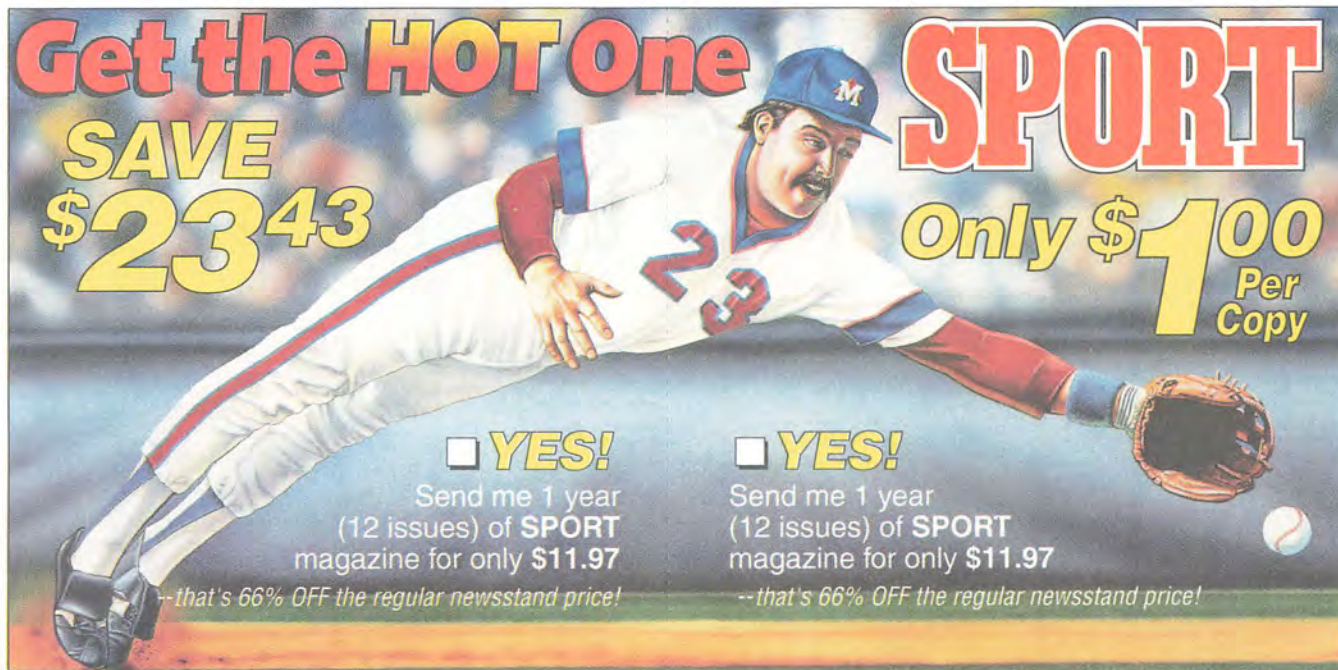
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